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of the year in New York
SPARE CHIC, PAGE 14



The miserable wives
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THE TIMES

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8 1995

'Obey the rules' plea by Heseltine

Firms begin to drop MPs as advisers

BY ANDREW PIERCE, PHILIP WEBSTER AND ALICE THOMSON

COMPANIES are discarding MPs as advisers because they feel they are no longer worth the money now that Parliament has adopted new rules on members' behaviour.

But as many Conservatives came to terms yesterday with their declining commercial value, others were thinking of ways to get around the rules or even threatening to defy them. Such MPs were urged to bow to the Commons vote forcing them to disclose their income from consultancies when Michael Heseltine said they should abide by the "spirit and letter" of the new regime.

The Deputy Prime Minister was trying to avoid further embarrassment for the Government after the heavy defeat on Monday over the disclosure of MPs' consultancy fees, but the Tories' morale was at a low ebb as they left for the break before the opening of Parliament next week.

David Mellor was one of the first high-profile casualties of the lobbyists' cutbacks when Shandwick Consultants dispensed with his services. Tom McNally, Shandwick's public affairs director, said: "It was a mutual decision to coincide with the vote on Monday. The arrangement was frankly no longer worth the candle."

The Association of Professional Political Consultants has also banned payments to MPs and their families, and a lobby firm chaired by Lord Parkinson is being wound up because one of its directors could become an MP at the general election.

With political lobbyists severing links with MPs, many



Mellor: an early victim of the new rules

Conservatives fear that trade associations, professional bodies and commercial companies will also ditch them. "I fear our best days are behind us," a former minister said last night.

More worrying for ministers is the threat of some MPs to refuse to admit their outside earnings. Sir Michael Neuber, a member of the 1922 Committee executive, said: "I do have to think very carefully about whether I observe this new rule of the House. It's not the rule of the land."

Others suggested that they would redraw their contracts with companies to conceal large parts of what they earn as being "non-parliamentary", and some spoke of urging their firms to appoint them as non-executive directors to avoid revealing their fees.

But Mr Heseltine, speaking after consulting John Major in Israel, told the Commons: "I can say unreservedly on behalf of the Prime Minister and myself that both of us believe

that it is right for all MPs to enter into the spirit and the letter of the decisions that were taken yesterday evening. That was the will of the House."

Mr Major was still being privately accused by Tory MPs of mishandling the issue and was himself understood to feel bruised that his advisers had underestimated the strength of the rebellion.

Labour meanwhile seized on the threat of a Tory backlash to demand that the Nolan Committee investigate the funding of political parties. In the Commons, John Prescott said: "Can't the public know where the Tory party gets its money from? Who has paid for a knighthood, who has bought a peerage and which foreign businessmen have bankrolled the party (before) fleeing the country?"

Tony Blair hailed the vote as a "humiliation of the Conservative party" entirely of its own making and insisted that members must be bound by the rules. "The public will simply find it intolerable that MPs, having voted in the way they did, should then simply ignore that."

The House of Lords, however, rejected a call to follow the Commons and reveal details of payments for consultancies. Peers agreed last night to set up "anti-sleaze" controls banning lobbying and to set up a public register of members' financial interests, but drew the line at disclosing fees.

Matthew Parris, page 2
Lobbyists turn away, page 8
Simon Jenkins, page 16
Leading article, page 17



David Hockney brandishing a postcard of Pragonard's 'Girl with a Dog' at yesterday's press conference: 'It is very beautiful,' he said

Hockney steps into child-in-the-bath row

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

DAVID HOCKNEY yesterday criticised the laws that led to Julia Somerville, the newsreader, and her partner being arrested over pictures of a girl in the bath.

The artist criticised a politically correct world in which "warm, beautiful" portraits of human beings could be misread as less than innocent images. Without mentioning by name Miss Somerville, who is being investigated by police over the 28 photographs, he attacked Scotland Yard and Boots, the chemists.

A Kodak employee in a Boots store contacted the police over the pictures he was



Julia Somerville: said to be delighted

developing. "There is something a bit odd and deeply wrong when somebody is trying to make warm pictures

and are questioned by police," Mr Hockney said.

Speaking at the Royal Academy at the launch of a retrospective of his drawings, Mr Hockney went on to explain what would result from the widespread imposition of some of the laws involved in the Somerville case: "If they really want to impose them we will have a lot of fun. They would have to start taking a lot of pictures down," he said, adding that MPs were "Philistines who were not concerned with beauty."

He then brandished a "dirty" postcard, an explicit image of a young girl, no more than 13, reclining on a bed in a revealing position. It was painted in 1790 by Pragonard.

the French master. Mr Hockney's point was that there are ways and ways of looking at a child.

He said of the painting: "She is 12 or 14 maybe, and in a very provocative pose with a dog. It is very beautiful."

Pragonard was a painter of sentimental subjects; scholars are divided about whether images such as his *Girl with a Dog* were "serious intellectual material", a study of women in all their beauty, or explicitly titillating images.

It was certainly regarded as "sexy" at the time. One scholar said: "This is probably not the best example for Hockney to have chosen. It is not totally innocent."

Julia Somerville, 48, and her

partner, Jeremy Dixon, 56, were both said to be delighted at Mr Hockney's comments. Edward Jones, Mr Dixon's partner in their Covent Garden architectural practice, said: "Anyone who supports the plight of my partner is to be welcomed, especially if they have such a reputation as David Hockney, who is a truly fine artist. David Hockney uses his camera extensively in his art."

Mr Jones declined to say on whether he and Mr Dixon were friends with the artist. "This whole subject is sensitive," he said.

Art school accused, page 9
Brookes cartoon, page 16
Letters, page 17

Ministers criticised in Iraq arms case

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government was pitched into a second damaging arms-to-Iraq controversy last night after the Court of Appeal quashed the convictions of four businessmen because vital documents had been withheld from the defence.

Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the Lord Chief Justice, ruled that the failure of ministers to disclose papers requested by lawyers for four men involved in the arms firm Ordax had prevented them from mounting a proper defence at their trial in 1992.

He ruled that their convictions for breaching an arms embargo to Iraq were not "safe and satisfactory" after documents from the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign Office and the Security Services were produced showing wide knowledge and complicity across Whitehall of the arms trade

with Baghdad. Public interest immunity certificates preventing government documents which could have cleared the men being disclosed at the original trial were signed by Kenneth Baker, the former Home Secretary, and Peter Lilley, then Trade and Industry Secretary and now at the Department of Social Security.

Both men also signed immunity certificates in the Matrix Churchill case, the subject of Sir Richard Scott's inquiry into arms sales to Iraq which is expected to force ministerial resignations when it reports early next year.

When the Ordax appeal was launched earlier this year fresh immunity certificates were signed by Douglas Hurd, then Foreign Secretary, and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. Most of the documents were later disclosed voluntarily or by order of the appeal judges.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday the Government would await the findings of the Scott inquiry, which was examining both the Ordax and Matrix Churchill cases.

Mr Heseltine acknowledged the Ordax verdict spelt further trouble: "It is a very serious situation. The issues raised by the Ordax decision are within the view of Lord Justice Scott and we know that he intends to deal with it in his



The Ghost Road: a tale of the trenches

Pat Barker is Booker winner

BY DALYA ALBERGE AND EMMA WILKINS

PAT BARKER last night unexpectedly beat off Salman Rushdie, the hottest favourite for years, to win the 1995 Booker Prize for *The Ghost Road*, a story of death and sex in the trenches.

The 53-year-old novelist was the only woman on the shortlist for the £20,000 award. The decision confirmed the Booker's capacity to surprise: Rushdie had been widely expected to win with *The Moor's Last Sigh*, and Martin Amis failed to make the shortlist of five rather than six books.

War memories, page 3
George Walden, page 15

Witness's collapse halts West trial

BY BILL FROST AND RICHARD DUCE

ROSEMARY WEST'S trial was halted suddenly yesterday when the final witness in the case collapsed after telling jurors that Frederick West had a pact with his wife that he alone would take the blame.

Janet Leach, 39, a mother of five, had been appointed as a lay observer, or "appropriate adult", to represent West's interests after his arrest. Mrs Leach suffered a stroke last year after sitting through more than 80 interviews between West and detectives and having private conversations with him in his cell.

Mr Justice Mantell told the jury that after the lunchtime break she had fallen sick and could neither speak nor move her legs. Later, she was said to be in a satisfactory condition at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester where she was being kept for observation.

Mrs Leach had told the court that she had been devastated by some of West's disclosures, but had not wanted him to see how upset she was. She told the court that West had told her "he would take the blame for everything ... he and Rosemary had entered into a pact and Rosemary would never say anything."

West had told her that what he was telling the police was "not totally the truth". She told Winchester Crown Court: "He told me that in confidence, and that it would all come out eventually and he was protect-

ing Rose." After living with his confession, Mrs Leach, who had made an agreement not to disclose West's conversations with her, suffered a stroke in June last year.

She was called by the prosecution to counter evidence used by the defence taken from interview tapes in which West said he had been acting alone. After West's suicide in Winslow Green Prison, Birmingham, on New Year's Day, Mrs Leach took advice from a solicitor on the confidentiality issue. She then told the police about West's confession.

Giving evidence yesterday, Mrs Leach appeared extremely distressed and was often close to tears. After the lunch adjournment, the judge said: "This is very serious and at the same time very unfortunate. The lady giving evidence has been taken ill."

"I know that an ambulance has been summoned. You were told this morning that she suffered a stroke and at the moment she can neither speak nor move her legs. Let us hope it is not what we fear it might be." The judge added: "For the time being, we cannot continue."

Mrs Leach's collapse meant that Richard Ferguson, QC, for the defence, was unable to conclude his cross-examination. The jury was told to return as normal today.

West promise, page 5

Rabin shrines desecrated

Some of the impromptu shrines erected in Israel in memory of Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Prime Minister, have been desecrated.

Israel radio reported that a street memorial in a suburb of Tel Aviv had been set on fire, memorial posters had been slashed and schoolchildren had cheered in class when the news of his death was announced. Page 13

Stone Age animal carvings saved



The new Portuguese Government halted work on a dam, saving the world's largest collection of Stone Age engravings at Fox Coa, in northeast Portugal. An art expert said the role of *The Times* had been crucial. Animals illustrated include oxen, horses and goats. Page 13

French reshuffle

The French Cabinet was reshuffled by Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, who had formally offered his Government's resignation. President Chirac immediately reappointed him. Page 12

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Ultrasonic lion king roars again and puts little creatures to flight

KIDNEY stones? What kidney stones? The lion king has recovered his roar. Michael Heseltine, deputising for John Major at PM's Questions yesterday, threw back his mane and sent dozens of the smaller creatures of the forest scurrying for cover back into the undergrowth.

The Deputy Prime Minister warmed up only gradually. Challenged by Sir Teddy Taylor (C, Southend East) to admit that European monetary policy was wrecking continental economies, Mr Heseltine was at his most

avuncular. He managed to choose from Sir Teddy's remarks something with which it was possible to agree (always a challenge) and commended this.

To Nigel Evans, an energetic Tory poodle from Wales who had asked the Prime Minister to state his engagements for the day, Heseltine explained that Mr Major was away ("As far away as possible") shouted one Labour backbencher.

Evans then offered a simpering invitation to the Deputy PM to recite at "the stench

of humbug" from union-sponsored Labour MPs during the Nolan debate. In reply, Mr Heseltine offered a defence of the Prime Minister's attitude to the Nolan inquiry. This was an apology for Major which it would be unfair to call lacklustre and which was better than faltering, but which to call "robust" might very slightly overstate. Was he, anxious friends wondered, still troubled by those kidney stones reported some weeks ago?

John Prescott (Tony Blair's



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

deputy) rose, to test Mr Heseltine's health. Mr Prescott is a test of anybody's health. In buccaneering form, the Humber MP belittled that the Prime Minister and his Deputy were completely out of step with public opinion.

Did they share his "outrage" at rumours that some Tory backbenchers might refuse to disclose their earnings from consultancy? Heseltine began his build-up deceptively. Why, yes, of course, he said, Members must obey the rules. There followed what from anyone else would be called a nano-second's pause and from Prescott an astonishing silence. The Mouth of the Humber then articulated a demand for

disclosure of the sources of Tory party funding. The Deputy PM should "come clean", he declared.

Heseltine came more than clean, he came deafening. Labour wanted "one-track" MPs, "totally devoted to their party whips". That was pretty rich from the Deputy Leader of the most totalitarian party in history, and the Opposition jeered.

But jeers are to Heseltine what cocaine is to the addict: his nostrils flared, his eyes blazed and he launched (after another prod from Prescott)

into a prolonged roar about Labour's "sleazy politics... sold out to the trades unions... sold out..." and on he yelled, John Prescott gesticulating at him to turn down the volume, wretched Tory backbenchers cheering in gratitude at this small rallying of morale.

He bowed out to a smashing pay-off line. Challenged over the cost of his new post, Heseltine boasted about a billion pounds' investment secured for the North East. "I'm cheap at the price!" he shouted, to cheers, as they

run down the curtains. Colleagues with direct experience of kidney stones say that the pain is awful but that there is now an alternative to invasive surgery: a treatment called "ultrasound".

A beam of intense noise is directed at the offending pebble, breaking it up. Has anyone considered the use of acoustic baffles to bounce Heseltine's own speeches in a concentrated stream directed at his own kidneys? His speeches break rocks.

No stone would stand a chance.

ADRIAN BROOKS

Divorcing couples will not be forced into mediation

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

DIVORCING couples will not be forced into mediation under the Government's proposals to reform the divorce laws, the Lord Chancellor said last night.

In his first speech since it was disclosed that his disputed reforms are expected to be in the Queen's Speech, Lord Mackay of Clashfern added that he would not be cutting lawyers out of the divorce process.

Nor, he told the Solicitors Family Law Association, would he be denying legal aid to anyone who refused to go through the mediation process.

"People will not be forced to mediate," Lord Mackay said. "They will be encouraged to give mediation a fair chance as an option for resolving the issues, but only if it is the best way for these problems to be resolved. By definition mediation cannot be forced upon unwilling participants."

Lord Mackay, clearly seeking to allay some of the legal profession's main concerns, added that mediators could not take the place of lawyers.

"No one who requires such legal help will be denied that help, provided they meet the usual eligibility tests for that help." Legal aid, he added, would be available in situations where mediation was not appropriate.

The important factor will be for clients to receive the

right professional assistance at the right time, whether from lawyers, mediators or marriage guidance counsellors.

Lord Mackay dismissed fears that his proposals would lead to a two-tier system in which more affluent individuals would use lawyers while others were forced to use mediation. The proposals contained a presumption in favour of mediation, which meant it should be considered in all but the most urgent cases before litigation was started.

But he added: "Clearly there will be cases where the breakdown of the marriage has been too painful for couples to negotiate in this way and legal aid will be available in situations where mediation is not appropriate."

The Lord Chancellor went on to make what some took as a key concession: the scrapping of the idea that everyone embarking on divorce should attend a compulsory information session.

This has been attacked, most recently by Martin Mears, the President of the Law Society, as likely to involve a kind of "public Alcoholics Anonymous" session where people from all walks of life would be obliged to attend and reveal their marital difficulties.

Lord Mackay suggested that instead information could be provided via a video, to be

viewed privately, backed up with a telephone inquiry service to the people offering the various marriage guidance services.

He added that he would wish to test out various options in a pilot study before full arrangements came into play.

Lord Mackay, looking tired after the battles with Cabinet colleagues and MPs over the past two weeks, added: "It is not without a great deal of thought and soul searching that I have brought forward these proposals."

"In all my self-examination, I have not been satisfied in the least that retention of fault, in the legal evidential sense, does or can support the institution of marriage."

He added that almost no one had anything good to say about the present method of dissolving marriages. Even his critics acknowledged the existing situation was fundamentally unsatisfactory and did little to ease the destruction and misery of divorce.

He emphasised that neither these reforms nor his plans to overhaul the legal aid scheme, were directed at cost cutting. The divorce proposals were aimed at helping families experiencing a marriage breakdown.

"I believe the proposed changes are for the good and will make for a better divorce system," he said.



From right, Paul Grecian, Bryan Mason, Stuart Blackledge and Colin Phillips, whose convictions were quashed on appeal yesterday

Arms-case businessmen's conviction quashed

Continued from page 1

report." The Opposition immediately called for heads to roll.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "Once again ministers have been caught out trying to cover up their role in the supply of arms to Iraq. None of these businessmen would have been convicted in the first place if ministers had not abused their power by placing gagging orders before the courts."

Mr Cook demanded that the Scott inquiry report should draft strict new rules on the use of immunity certificates by ministers.

Lawyers for the four businessmen said last night they were considering suing the Government for compensation. They estimate the costs of the case to the taxpayer to be "not far short of a million pounds."

Paul Grecian, the Ordtec managing director, together with Bryan Mason, technical

manager, and Stuart Blackledge, a project engineer, received a suspended one-year jail sentence in February 1992 for selling 300,000 artillery fuses to the Saddam regime on an export licence which listed Jordan as the end-user. A fourth man, Colin Phillips, was fined.

Officials from the Scott inquiry were present in court and said afterwards that their

report would contain a full account of the Ordtec affair. They admitted that it was an "open secret" that Sir Richard Scott's report would be highly critical of the Government's role.

Sir Richard's inquiry has spent three years examining the role of government ministers and officials in the Matrix Churchill trial, which collapsed for similar reasons.

Lord Taylor asked in the course of a 20-page judgement.

Mr Grecian, whose business collapsed as a result of the trial, claimed that he had supplied the security services with information about Iraqi arms procurement, including the first tip-off that President Saddam Hussein was constructing a "super gun". The Lord Chief Justice found that there had been "sustained contact" with M15 and M16 through Detective Constable Wilkinson, a Special Branch "controller".

The extent of these contacts had not been disclosed at the trial and Lord Taylor said that they "may well have influenced a jury". All four men pleaded guilty but claimed they entered pleas under duress from the Government, which was unwilling to admit its own involvement. The judgement accepted that the guilty pleas had been made under pressure.

Boss likely to sue Government

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON

PAUL GRECIAN, the former Ordtec managing director cleared by the Court of Appeal yesterday, said that the "five-year legal nightmare" had cost him his livelihood.

He is likely to sue the Government for compensation for the collapse of his company.

Mr Grecian said, however, that he was not bitter. "It's a

sorry mess, the overall picture. But it is what we have come to expect."

He faces an additional problem in that the American authorities are seeking to extradite him for alleged illegal arms sales to Iraq. Kevin Robinson, Mr Grecian's solicitor, said: "We hope to sort that out in the next couple of days in the light of the appeal court judgement."

Bryan Mason, the technical manager at Ordtec, was also left without a job as a result of the court case, as was Stuart Blackledge, the project engineer.

Colin Phillips, who worked for EC Transport, the shipping agency that arranged the transport of the artillery fuses via Jordan, said: "It has all been very stressful. At one point I thought I was going to be in prison when my baby was born."

Curbs on security guards must wait

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD has rejected cross-party calls for an early overhaul of the private security industry and has told senior Tories that there is no prospect of a Bill being introduced in the next session of Parliament.

Proposals for firms to be registered, and for a licensing system to prevent convicted criminals working as security guards, are unlikely to become law before a general election.

Home Office officials say that Mr Howard is worried over proposals to allow private companies access to national criminal records as a way of vetting employees. The Home Secretary is also concerned about protests from civil liberties campaigners if security staff are not protected by laws that prevent disclosure of some past convictions.

Mr Howard will reply shortly to a detailed report by the Home Affairs Select Committee, which pressed for urgent changes to curb widespread abuses.

The industry has doubled in size over the past 20 years and MPs have received complaints about companies employing staff with convictions for violence, offering private security contracts to homes and businesses. In one case, a guard for a security firm was found to be an escaped prisoner serving a sentence for murder. The MPs said that employees should be licensed and that statutory regulations were needed for the contract guarding sector.

Mr Howard's best hope of introducing changes would have been within a crime Bill but, in the absence of such a piece of legislation in the coming session, there is little possibility of new laws being introduced under the wing of other Home Office legislation. A private members' Bill is unlikely to be backed.

Alun Michael, Labour's home affairs spokesman, said: "Proper protection of the public requires statutory regulation of the private security industry."

Minister shelves sale of Dover harbour

The sale of the port of Dover has been postponed by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, but he confirmed yesterday that the privatisation of Ipswich and Tyne ports would go ahead despite local opposition.

Sir George said the sale of Dover would be put on hold for at least two years until the impact of the Channel Tunnel on the ferry industry became clearer. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Dame Vera Lynn were among those who voiced concern about the sell-off.

Sea search called off

A search for three fishermen whose boat sank in unexplained circumstances in the Bristol Channel on Monday was called off last night. No survivors have been found. The three are Peter Smith, 39, of St Just, Cornwall, the skipper, married with a five-year-old son, and Paul Bennett, 35, and his brother Tim, 31, both single, from Penzance.

Chris Evans censured

The Radio 1 disc jockey Chris Evans, right, abused his position as a broadcaster by urging listeners to boycott Shell petrol stations, BBC governors have ruled. Mr Evans was reacting in June to the oil company's plans, later reversed, to dump the Brent Spar at sea. The governors concluded that his remarks were ill-judged, even though it had been made in a light-hearted and bantering tone.



Lawyers abandon trial

Lawyers representing four men accused of being involved in the murder of Margaret Wilson, who was battered and shot by a mob at a loyalist drinking den, walked out of the trial yesterday. The QCs, their juniors and solicitors gave no reason for their decision. Lord Justice Nicholson adjourned the case at Belfast Crown Court until tomorrow.

Selfish society alert

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, painted a depressing picture last night of a breakdown of communities leading to a "something-for-nothing, me-first society". In a lecture to an east London charity, he gave warning of a growing culture of selfishness and called for a new balance between giving and taking. Put the heart back, page 16

Mini wins accolade

A panel from the specialist motoring magazine *Autocar* last night chose the Mini as the car of the century. Michael Harvey, the Editor, said: "What better car to win than the Mini, a stroke of genius that changed family cars for ever." The panel's motoring man of the century was Enzo Ferrari, the celebrated sports car maker.

Wilson leaves his archive to nation

By ALAN HAMILTON

LORD WILSON of Rievaulx left his entire archive of political papers to Baroness Falkender, his former political secretary and close confidante, it was disclosed in his will published yesterday.

But unlike the Churchill archive, Lord Wilson's papers cannot be sold. Lady Falkender is acting only as literary executor: the documents will belong to a charitable trust and will be permanently available to researchers at their new home in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

Lord Wilson, who died in May aged 79, left estate valued at £490,992 net, largely accounted for by his apartment near Victoria station in London. Probate has been granted to Lady Wilson and their sons Robin and Giles.

According to the terms of his will, Lord Wilson left "his political papers, correspondence, speeches and memoranda and all rights therein" to Lady Falkender. The papers are being moved from London to the Bodleian.

A spokesman for Goodman Derrick, his solicitors, said yesterday that the arrangement would give effect to his wish that the papers be kept as part of the national heritage, and be available for research.

The will discloses that Lord Wilson was far from being a rich man. In his later years he survived on a prime ministerial pension of £36,000, of which Lady Wilson now receives only half. Since her husband's death the government has bent the rules and allowed her to keep the use of a ministerial car and chauffeur.

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Flamboyant editor of cocaine overd

Driver who boys is fine

Jilted lover

Flamboyant editor died of cocaine overdose

By A Staff Reporter

MICHAEL VERMEULEN, the flamboyant and fast-living editor of the men's magazine *GO*, died from a massive cocaine overdose, an inquest was told yesterday.

Mr Vermeulen, 38, of Islington, northeast London, was taken to Whittington Hospital on August 29 when a woman friend noticed he had vomited in his sleep and could not wake him. He was pronounced dead. His heart had stopped after taking twice the lethal level of the drug. Dr David Brown, a pathologist, told St Pancras Coroner's Court.

Danielle Minns, a musician, had spent the previous night with the editor and said he had drunk wine, beer and brandy. She assumed he had taken cannabis when he told her he had smoked a drug but insisted she had no idea that he had snorted cocaine.

Miss Minns said she had been a close friend of Mr Vermeulen for nearly a year and saw him about once a week. "He was lots of fun, generous and warm," she said, adding that he was not particularly depressed.

Detective Constable Nigel Taylor searched Mr Vermeulen's flat and that of his neighbour, where he had watched television with Miss Minns. No drug-taking paraphernalia was found and although there was a small quantity of cannabis in his kitchen, there were no traces of cocaine.

Asked by Dr Stephen Chan, the coroner, if it was possible Miss Minns had tidied up before the police arrived, he said: "I always keep an open mind."

Constable Taylor interviewed friends and colleagues of Mr Vermeulen and said: "The impression I get is that the gentleman had a very active life. He worked very hard and played very hard as well. It was generally known that he smoked cannabis, but nothing more than that."

Dr Chan commented: "I understand the deceased was a person who had a big appetite

for work and play, living life in the fast lane for the moment. To colleagues he may have been a larger than life hero but others may have looked at him in a less complimentary light.

"He was very popular in the various clubs he belonged to. He worked very long hours and was generally thought to be a man about town and a heavy drinker. He could hold his drink well and would consume a bottle of wine, several Martini cocktails and brandies on a daily basis."

Dr Brown said half the amount of cocaine that the American-born editor had consumed could be fatal. He explained the drug could cause spasms in the blood vessels to the heart. He gave the cause of death as cocaine overdose.

Recording a verdict of death by misadventure, Dr Chan said: "All the evidence satisfies me entirely that the consideration of a suicide verdict is totally inappropriate."

"There is no evidence that the deceased used cocaine regularly or habitually but I am satisfied he was conscious of what he was doing on that fatal morning. This rather excessive level pushed him beyond his physical tolerance, ending in tragedy."

The coroner added: "It is a matter of regret I have to reiterate yet again in this court the dangers of drug usage that so often leads to tragedy and premature death."



Vermeulen: death by misadventure

Driver who killed boys is fined £200

By Paul Wilkinson

A DRIVER who killed two teenage boys when he fell asleep and swerved into a group of army cadets was fined £200 yesterday after pleading guilty to driving without due care and attention. The charge was defended by the families of his two victims, Gareth Horton, 14, and Gavin Parsons, 17.

Leslie Parsons, 52, a lorry driver, said "In my opinion he should have been charged at least with causing death by dangerous driving. I always stop when I feel tired. It is the law for HGV drivers. There should be a similar law for car drivers."

David Horton, 44, also a lorry driver, attacked a system that he said allowed a driver to "get off" with a fine for causing the deaths of two boys. "I am absolutely devastated. My boy's life seems to be worth just £100." He said they were considering further legal action.

Magistrates at Pontefract, West Yorkshire, heard that James Inglis, 52, had fallen asleep on his way home from a 12-hour shift in a tractor factory in February. He had been working the shifts for a fortnight to pay for his daughter's wedding in Kenya. He was also fined £360, with £50 costs, for having no insurance and had his licence endorsed

with eight penalty points. As sentence was passed Mr Horton shouted at him "It's not over yet, you murderer."

Outside court, Inglis of South Kirkby, West Yorkshire, said the accident had "shattered" him. "I don't think I shall ever drive again. I can understand the families' grief and anger. I'm so sorry. I don't know what else to say."

Gavin and Gareth were walking home with two friends from a cadet meeting in their home town of South Elmsall when Inglis's saloon veered on to the pavement and hit them.

Thomas Klouda, prosecuting, said that they and their friend Timothy Benwinter, 16, were walking behind another cadet. "The car mounted the pavement, just missing him, but colliding with the three friends before striking the wall and overturning." Timothy was in hospital for several days with serious injuries.

Gordon Richardson, in mitigation, said Inglis was facing a charge of careless driving because he was not speeding and the manner of his driving had been good before he fell asleep. He told the magistrates: "Your responsibility is to judge this defendant as to the quality of his driving that night and not the terrible consequence of it."



Pat Barker's novel combines real-life characters with a shell-shocked soldier-hero

Booker winner inspired by war memories

By Daniel Johnson, Literary Editor

PAT BARKER's novel *The Ghost Road*, winner of the 1995 Booker Prize, is the culmination of a First World War trilogy in which the poets Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon are among several historical figures who make brief appearances.

It provides a broad panorama of life and death, with grisly depictions of trench warfare, shell-shocked survivors and the drab home front, enlivened by the erotic adventures of Billy Prior, its bisexual soldier-hero.

Miss Barker, 52, is an historian by training and had two children before deciding to become a full-time writer. Her interest in the war was stimulated by her grandfather's traumatic memories, and — unusually in a work of fiction — she adds a reading list for those who wish to know more about her sources.

She began the sequence with *Regeneration* in 1991 and continued with *The Eye in the Door* two years later. These novels introduced the real-life character of William Rivers, an army psychiatrist and friend of Sassoon, who is the most sympathetic figure in *The Ghost Road*: he tries unsuccessfully to persuade Billy Prior not to return to the Western Front after he is invalided out with shell-shock.

At various points in the narrative, Rivers, a former anthropologist, recalls his ex-

periences with Melanesian natives and reflects on the ritual of headhunting, which the British colonists had sought to stamp out. Miss Barker's husband is an anthropologist and she was able to draw on his knowledge to enrich her novel with this stark contrast to European attitudes to death.

The most controversial aspect of *The Ghost Road* is not the depictions of violence, which are realistic but not overdone, but the sex scenes. These will strike some readers as unnecessarily detailed, even pornographic.

Derwent May commented in his *Times* review: "Few women can have imagined their way into the male sex organ more thoroughly than Miss Barker, and she follows Prior's into many and varied places."

However, Prior's rather brutish attitude to his sexual partners is an integral part of his damaged personality, and hence colours the entire novel.

The novel ends in the last days of the war, and it is clear that any victory will be hollow for those who survive. But the deeper message of Pat Barker's remarkable trilogy is that war, and the qualities that it brings out in men, are an essential facet of the human condition, a dark, primordial force in our nature that is not to be denied.

George Walden, page 15

Hormone drug 'drove champion to suicide'

By John Goodbody

A FORMER European women's bodybuilding champion killed herself because she could not cope with the devastating physical effects caused by anabolic steroid abuse, an inquest was told yesterday.

Zoe Warwick, 35, who had campaigned against misuse of hormone drugs to improve competitors' physiques and performances, suffered from a wide range of chronic symptoms after consuming huge quantities herself.

She died after swallowing 42 sleeping pills at her home in Horrabridge, Devon — her fourth overdose in the past six years. Brian Hall-Tomkin, the coroner at Tavistock, recorded a verdict of suicide.

Miss Sanae Furiya, her companion for the past four years, said that Miss Warwick, a former RAF PT instructor, had admitted using anabolic steroids between 1985 and 1988, when she was ranked fourth in the world as a female bodybuilder. She began taking drugs after a trip to the United States.

Miss Furiya said her friend admitted taking 30 times the clinical dosage, causing "disability, problems of nausea and vertigo and many other problems." Her personality was also affected.

Miss Warwick suffered liver and pancreatic problems, stomach haemorrhages, skin rashes, amnesia, loss of teeth and hair, and was excessively aggressive.



Warwick was rated fourth in the world



Time is precious to George Schaller. No wonder he Seventeen thousand measures it so carefully. climates and terrains

feet up on the Tibetan Plateau is the Chang Tang, or Northern Plain. Rolling away to the horizon, its immensity is broken only by snow capped ranges. Here the snow leopard stalks; yaks and antelope migrate over unknown paths.

Although this region is extremely remote, its wildlife is already in danger through man's encroachment.

George Schaller, science director of The Wildlife Conservation Society, decided that immediate action was necessary. And so he embarked on a race against time. Accompanied by Rolex.

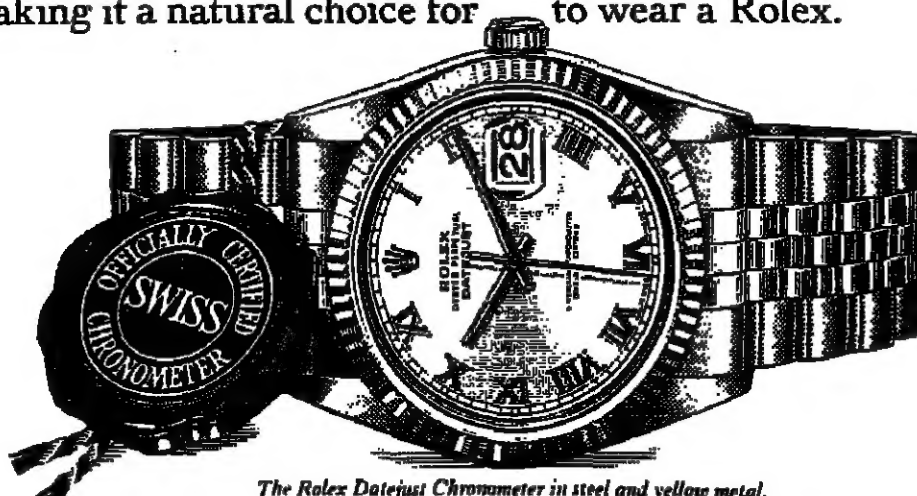
The dependability of a Rolex is legendary, making it a natural choice for

as rugged as those of Tibet.

So far it seems the race against time is being won. Schaller and his Chinese and Tibetan colleagues have helped the government of China establish a huge reserve that covers 300,000 square kilometres, an area large enough even to allow for the migrations of the Tibetan antelopes and yaks.

"If we don't protect the Chang Tang now, the magnificent species found here could soon vanish forever," Schaller says.

Faced with a project this important, the right equipment is vital. No wonder George Schaller has chosen to wear a Rolex.



The Rolex Datejust Chronometer in steel and yellow metal.

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Jilted lover 'injected with HIV'

By Michael Horsnell

A JILTED woman injected her sleeping lover with a syringe of her HIV-contaminated blood as a "surprise present" to mark their break-up, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Rhena Ndagga, 25, could not accept it when David Kabagwire, 28, a fellow Ugandan immigrant, told her he had met someone else.

Her victim, the court was told, has proved negative in three blood tests taken since the attack in May but could not yet be regarded as "completely in the clear." The

couple had always had protected sex.

In May this year, Miss Ndagga, of Barking, east London, told her lover that she had been told by immigration officials to leave the country. "She said rather ominously that she had a present for him," Garrett Byrne, for the prosecution, said.

In bed that night he awoke to a sharp pain in his left shoulder. Miss Ndagga told him she must have scratched him with her fingernail.

The following day as Mr Kabagwire bent down to look for a briefcase at her flat he felt a sharp pain in one of his

buttocks. "She said she had injected him that morning but had only put in a quarter of the blood so she had done it again. She said he would now be ill as well as her."

Mr Byrne added: "She said this was the surprise present."

Miss Ndagga has denied maliciously administering a poison — namely her blood — to endanger life or inflict grievous bodily harm. She has also pleaded not guilty to alternative charges of administering blood with intent to injure, aggrieve and annoy, and to attempted grievous bodily harm.

The trial continues.

Nuclear scientists sniff out bogus wines

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

SCIENTISTS at Harwell, the nuclear research centre in Oxfordshire, are using the world's most sensitive analytical instrument to unmask wines that pretend to be what they are not.

Tiny traces of metals picked up by the vines from the soil can be detected in the wine, and used to identify its origins. The method has been used in France but the new Harwell instrument is ten times more sensitive.

The team has been surprised at the huge differences between Chianti, Côtes du Rhône and Burgundian Cabernet Sauvignon. The metals hafnium and zirconium can be detected in some wines, but not others.

"What we need to do is to confirm that all samples of a given wine have the same trace elements," said Roger Brown of the analytical division at AEA Technology. "Then we could use it as a test for wine shippers or supermarkets worried they are being defrauded by their suppliers."

The machine is capable of detecting less than ten parts per million billion of some metals — equivalent to one milligram in 100,000 tonnes. Made by Fisons Instruments, of Winstford, Cheshire, it can detect trace elements in materials used to make semiconductors.

The machine, a high-resolution inductively coupled mass spectrometer, determines the mass of each fragment in any sample, enabling it to be identified.

Besides testing wines, it could also be used to detect fraudulent perfumes, coffee and mineral water, or monitor the levels of pollutants in rainwater. AEA Technology, a spin-off from the Atomic Energy Authority, is a company providing science and engineering know-how to many industries.

Products containing pesticide are to be withdrawn from general use 'as a precaution'

Cancer study halts sale of shampoos used to kill lice

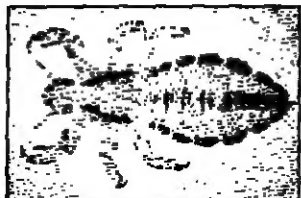
By Jeremy Laurence
Health Correspondent

SHAMPOOS and lotions containing a chemical used widely to treat head lice are to be withdrawn from sale because of cancer fears. Supplies of some gardening and farming products will also be restricted because they contain the same pesticide.

Dr Kenneth Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, said studies on rats and mice showed that prolonged exposure to high doses of carbaryl could cause cancer. The chemical is not absorbed through the skin, however, and medical experts believe any risk would come only if it entered the mouth.

From January 1, pharmaceutical products containing the chemical will be available only on prescription. Until then, pharmacists have been instructed to advise patients to choose another product or consult their doctor. Each year, three million children use treatments for head lice.

Pesticides containing carbaryl for gardens and farms will be restricted to professional use. Suppliers are to be stopped immediately and retailers will have one year to sell or dispose of their stock. Products affected include Murphy Lawn Pest



Human head louse: resistance increasing

Killer, Fisons Water-On Lawn Pest Killer, Autumn and Winter Toplawn made by Pan Britannica Industries, and Levington Water-On Lawn Pest Killer.

The continued use of carbaryl in flea collars for dogs and cats and in animal shampoos is being considered by the Government's Veterinary Products Committee.

Dr Calman said there were no known cases of cancer in humans caused by carbaryl, despite the fact that it had been available for 40 years. There was no reason for parents who had used it on their children to worry. "This is not a cancer scare. It is a precautionary measure based on a theoretical risk from animal studies."

All doctors and pharmacists were alerted to the risk yesterday by letter and electronic mail. The letter lists preparations containing carbaryl as:

Caryderm lotion and shampoo, Clinicide lotion, Derbac-C lotion and shampoo and Suleo-C lotion and shampoo. Users who want to dispose of the products are advised to bag them and put with their rubbish rather than pour them down the sink.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society, the professional body for pharmacists, said it would be advising its 39,000 members to stop counter sales of head lice products containing carbaryl immediately.

Patients will be advised to switch to products containing other insecticides — malathion, permethrin and phenothrin. A review published in the *British Medical Journal* last September found that only permethrin was of proven effectiveness against head lice. Lotions are better than shampoos because they stay on the head longer.

Dr Calman said that studies in America seven years ago had suggested a possible link between carbaryl and cancer, but the studies were inadequate to warrant further action. New findings emerged from animal studies conducted for the French-American makers of carbaryl, Rhone Poulenc, which has a plant in Dagenham, east London. Companies are legally obliged



Brands of anti-lice treatments containing carbaryl that have been banned

to inform the Government if a problem is discovered concerning a pesticide.

The information was considered by the Government's Committee on Carcinogenicity. The tests on animals were over a prolonged period and the doses used were very much higher than the intermittent use of a shampoo containing carbaryl. Any risk to humans was "likely to be

exceedingly small". The Committee on Safety of Medicines, which also studied the evidence, decided that carbaryl could remain available on prescription because it was broken down by the liver into different substances from those produced in animals. Also, lice have developed resistance to some insecticides. Products not containing carbaryl include Derbac-M.

Prioderm lotion/shampoo and Suleo-M (active ingredient: malathion); Lyclear Creme Rinse (active ingredient: permethrin); Full Marks (active ingredient: phenothrin). Shampoo first appeared in the late 19th century, but came into general popular use only in the 1950s. The term shampoo is derived from champo, a word in Hindi meaning "to massage" or "to knead".

Hard-to-spot pest is no respecter of social status

Nurses who remain unmoved as guinea pigs are unravelled before them sometimes turn pale when asked to look under a microscope at a louse picked off their patient's skin or scalp.

The idea of someone harbouring creeping, crawling parasites is unpleasant, but head lice are a problem shared by all classes — whether the host is at Eton or at the toughest comprehensive in London's East End. A louse simply needs blood to survive, and it knows that blue blood is just as nutritious as any other.

Regular combing of the

hair and frequent hair washing helps, but will not necessarily keep lice at bay. Sharing combs and brushes, be it at a primary school or a smart London club, is hazardous and they should be washed frequently in very hot water to remove eggs sticking to the bristles and teeth.

Lice, small insects that live on and feed off the scalp, are not easy to find as they are well camouflaged. But the eggs — the nits — attached to hairs close to the scalp are more easily spotted. Children are more easily infected than women, and women more easily than men.

An application of an appro-



MEDICAL BRIEFING

priate lotion should soon rid the family of their unwelcome guests. The usual regime is to apply the lotion to the head and to leave it on for at least 12 hours before washing the hair and combing it with a fine-tooth comb, so as to remove dead lice and the nits. Shampoos are often considered an easier and more pleasant way of treating the lice, but in this form the insecticide may be

too dilute to be effective. The removal of carbaryl from the doctor's and the school nurse's armory of drugs against lice is no more than an inconvenience. Other well-known insecticides — malathion, lindane, permethrin and phenothrin — are available.

Lindane, which has also been the subject of scares in the past, is now used less often

because lice are becoming resistant to it. It is the basis of such well-known remedies as Quedala.

Malathion is not recommended for asthmatics or for very small children. Permethrin, marketed under the name of Lyclear, can be used from two months onwards and phenothrin, trade name Full Marks, is also for use on small children.

The secret of dealing with outbreaks of lice has been to ring the changes on the remedies and to make certain that all children in a particular area are using the same treatment. The

parents of affected children should also be treated.

Lice are not confined to the head. Body lice live on clothing. The seams of suits, shirts and underclothes are a perfect refuge from which the insects can periodically migrate when they need to feed off their hosts. The more often the clothes are cleaned the less likely they are to harbour parasites.

Crab lice haunt the hotter, sweeter, hairier parts of the anatomy, including armpits, beards and eyelashes.

DR THOMAS
STUTTAFORD

Golf ball hoarder is cleared

A golfer won a year-long court battle yesterday to keep more than 750 golf balls that he had hoarded in his bedroom. David Hughes, 25, of Buckley, Chwyd, was cleared of stealing the balls from a river and three lakes on the Padeswood and Buckley golf course. Police seized the balls, worth more than £1,000, after golf club officials complained about trespassers. Magistrates at Mold ordered police to give them back.

Piper Alpha case

William Hegarty, 43, a painter, of Alexandria, Strathclyde, who had to watch helplessly as the Piper Alpha oil platform was destroyed, killing 167 men, has begun a High Court action to win compensation for psychiatric damage.

Police chief fined

A police superintendent who was reported for drink-driving by a woman constable has been fined £1,300 and banned for 16 months by Aldershot magistrates. Dennis Luty, 55, of Basset, Southampton, is to appeal.

New audit head

The new chairman of the Audit Commission is to be Roger Brooke, 64, an investment financier. On December 1 he will replace Sir David Cooksey, 55, who retired from the post in August after five years.

Higgins fined

Alex Higgins, the snooker player, was fined £150 yesterday after he was found guilty of being drunk and disorderly. Magistrates in Northwich, Cheshire, were told that Higgins, 46, swore at police after a charity golf match.

Fake exposed

Magistrates adjourned sentence on a law student who photocopied postage stamps and used the fakes. Ziaur Rahman, 25, of Nottingham, admitted three charges of attempting to obtain postal services by deception.

Pools firm wins claim to be millionaire's best bet

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

ADVERTISING watchdogs ruled yesterday that people have a better chance of becoming a millionaire by playing the football pools than the National Lottery.

The Advertising Standards Authority said that the pools firm Littlewoods had been right to claim in a national press and poster campaign that the odds of winning its pools were better than those of winning the National Lottery.

The poster advertisement was headlined "Millionaire's row" and claimed: "Just 60p a go. Your best chance to win millions." A separate press

advertisement headed, "Littlewoods... your best chance of becoming a millionaire", quoted an article in a national newspaper giving odds of 15 million to one for the lottery and six million to one for Littlewoods pools.

The advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi, acting on behalf of Camelot, the lottery organiser, challenged both claims. The authority ruled, however, that at the time the advertisement appeared last spring the potential Littlewoods top prize was £2.6 million and the odds quoted were therefore correct. It also

upheld the company's claim that it offered the best chance to win millions of pounds.

The ruling is the latest round in a bitter battle between Camelot and pools firms. Pools takings at Littlewoods have dropped 20 per cent since the launch of the lottery draw.

In a separate ruling the authority upheld a complaint from The Telegraph plc, owner of *The Daily Telegraph*, about an advertisement from Times Newspapers Ltd, publisher of *The Times*, for making misleading comparisons of readership.

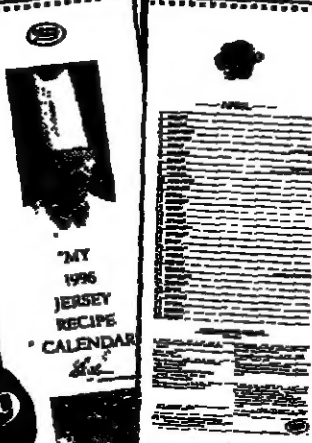
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ANTON MOSIMANN

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taste as wonderful as his, always choose vegetables from Jersey. Anton's colourful recipe calendar is 42x15cm, with delicious dishes based on broccoli, cauliflower, courgettes, tomatoes, peppers, parsley and, of course, Jersey Royal new potatoes. There's room to write daily reminders. A useful present for yourself — and your friends.

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صلى الله عليه وسلم

Witnesses reveal their private conversations with husband held over death of girls

West promised wife he would lie to save her, court is told

By Bill Frost and Richard Duce

ROSEMARY WEST agreed a pact with her husband that he would take the blame for their crimes while she remained silent for ever, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Janet Leach, appointed to sit in as a lay observer on interviews between detectives and Frederick West, said he told her privately that his wife had told him "where all the bodies were".

Mrs Leach, whose collapse yesterday afternoon halted the trial of Mrs West, said West had described the victims recovered from 25 Cromwell Street as "some of Rose's mistakes". She went on: "He said it was sexual and wasn't meant to happen."

Mrs Leach, 39, also told the court that West had said fingers were removed from the bodies to hamper police attempts to identify them.

As a lay observer who would normally be called to witness police interviews with minors or the mentally ill, she had been called to Gloucester police station soon after West's arrest. Mrs Leach, a mother of five, saw him privately in his cell as a "friend" and sat in on almost 80 interviews between late February and early May 1994. The following month she suffered a stroke, she said.

"What he was saying was that, in the interviews with police, he wasn't telling the truth. He was protecting Rosemary. When he was arrested, he wanted to know if Rosemary had been let out. He said there was a pact between them and that he would take the blame for everything and would sort it all out."

"Once the interviews began, he said he was going to talk a load of nonsense. He just said that he and Rose had made a pact and that she would never

say anything. "When West, 53, learnt that his wife had been arrested, he became "upset". Clearly under strain, Mrs Leach continued: "He just said the police were getting too involved." Mrs West denies murdering nine girls and a young woman.

Asked what West had revealed of the couple's sex life, Mrs Leach replied: "He said that he wasn't very good at sex and she was more demanding. He said he knew about her men but was quite surprised about lesbian activities."

Mrs Leach told the court that West would ask if what he said "shocked" her. "I was just devastated but I didn't want him to know how upset I was about the things he was disclosing."

She had not told police of her private conversations with West until after he had been found hanged at Winson Green Prison in Birmingham last New Year's Day. Mrs Leach had felt under a duty of confidentiality. West had told her that he would tell everybody the truth when he came to trial.

Called by the Crown to give evidence in rebuttal to taped interviews with West played to the trial last Friday, Mrs Leach described how he would frequently change facts during their conversations. Once he told her that he was in prison when his stepdaughter Charmaine disappeared. Subsequently he admitted the child's murder and that of her mother, Rena Costello — his first wife.

There were sharply differing stories about Heather, the daughter whose body was the first to be recovered from the back garden at Cromwell Street. West said that he had argued with his daughter and his wife had given her money

to go away with a lesbian. Subsequently he was to say that Mrs West and "someone else" had killed the girl after an argument. It had been "an accident".

West also claimed to Mrs Leach that a brother was involved in picking up girls from bus stops and taking them back to Cromwell Street. He accused Mrs West of murdering Shirley Robinson, a lodger whose body was found with the remains of her unborn child.

Mrs Leach last spoke to Frederick West in December 1994 — a fortnight before his death. "He was fine and talking about his new solicitor and new barrister. He was really pleased and was going to get things sorted out and was looking forward to the new year."

The trial continues.



Janet Leach yesterday: appointed as lay observer

'Rose was burying victims in cellar'

FREDERICK WEST told a prison doctor that his wife was to blame for the deaths of young women at their home, the jury was told. Dr James McMaster, a medical officer at the prison where West was on remand, said: "He claimed his wife was burying people without his knowledge."

Dr McMaster, a psychiatrist, said he had regular dealings with West. He spoke to him in August last year after reports that he had asked his family to make his funeral arrangements.

Dr McMaster formed the view West was living from "day to day" but did not appear suicidal and protested his innocence. "He claimed he'd been telling lies to the police and not telling them who he suspected was involved. He felt his wife was responsible for restraining their daughters while they were raped and responsible for the family's debts. He said his wife was running a brothel from his house. He claimed he was protecting her and was prepared to go to jail for life. "He said his wife had tried

to murder him by stabbing him with a knife. He felt his brother was involved although he didn't name his brother."

Dr McMaster, who was called by the prosecution to rebut West's taped interviews with police in which he tried to exonerate his wife, said: "He claimed his wife enjoyed cruelty and abused their daughters with sex toys. He also said that one of his daughters, Heather, helped to dig a hole in their back garden. He said it was her own grave but at the time she thought it was a paddling pool."

Dr McMaster said West claimed he was unaware of bodies being buried beneath their home. West told him he came home after a few days away to find the cellar had been dug over and was then persuaded by his wife to lay a concrete floor.

Detective Constable Steven Harris said that West, towards the end of interviews, claimed he was protecting someone but was too scared to say who.

ON SATURDAY



French interviewer: 'The French have not made up their minds about the Beatles. What do you think of them?' John: 'Oh, we like the Beatles. They're gear.'

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FIAT PUNTO. THE ANSWER. **FIAT**

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WEST'S LETTERS TO HIS WIFE

Two notes written by Frederick West and discovered in his cell on New Year's Day, when he was found dead, were read to the jury. Both were addressed to Rosemary West. The first read:

"To Rose West, Stephen Mae and Mo.
"Well Rose, it's your birthday November 28, 1984 and you will be 41 and still beautiful, and still love me, and I love you. We will always be in love. The most wonderful thing in my life is that I met you. How our love was special to us.
"So love, keep your promises to me, you know what they are.
"Where you and I will be together for ever and ever. It's up to you. Lay Heather by us, we loved Heather. It would be lovely for Heather and Charmaine to be with Rena. Well Rose you will be Mrs West all over the world. That's wonderful for me and you. I have not got you a present but as I have in my life I will give it to you my darling when you are ready to come to me I will be waiting for you."
The jury was told that, at the end of the note, there was a drawing of a gravestone with the caption "In loving memory, Fred West and Rose West. Rest in peace where no shadow falls in perfect peace he waits for Rose his wife."

The second note read: "To Rose West
"Happy New Year darling. All my love, Fred West. To my love, for ever and ever."

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Defence chiefs are 'too sceptical'

MPs seek action on Gulf War Syndrome

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MPs CRITICISED the Ministry of Defence yesterday for failing to take Gulf War Syndrome more seriously and demanded an independent health study of veterans.

After a lengthy investigation, the all-party Commons Defence Committee said it was appalled at the ministry's reluctance to undertake an epidemiological study, which could establish whether illnesses suffered by hundreds of veterans were statistically significant compared with military personnel who did not fight in the 1991 war.

The committee's unanimous report said that the ministry's response had been "characterised throughout by scepticism, defensiveness and general torpor".

Michael Colvin, Conservative chairman of the committee, and other members admitted they were sceptical themselves initially, but had been won over by personal testimony of those who had

suffered from a range of illnesses. So far 350 have been examined by the ministry.

Mr Colvin said the investigation did not "prove or disprove" that troops were ill because of the war, but it showed that the ministry's initial response — employing one physician two days a week to examine veterans — was "hopelessly inadequate".

The committee went to America, where thousands of veterans claim to be suffering from the same unexplained symptoms, including chronic fatigue, muscle weakness, sleeplessness, skin problems and headaches. The American authorities had begun a survey involving 30,000 serving personnel, veterans and civilians.

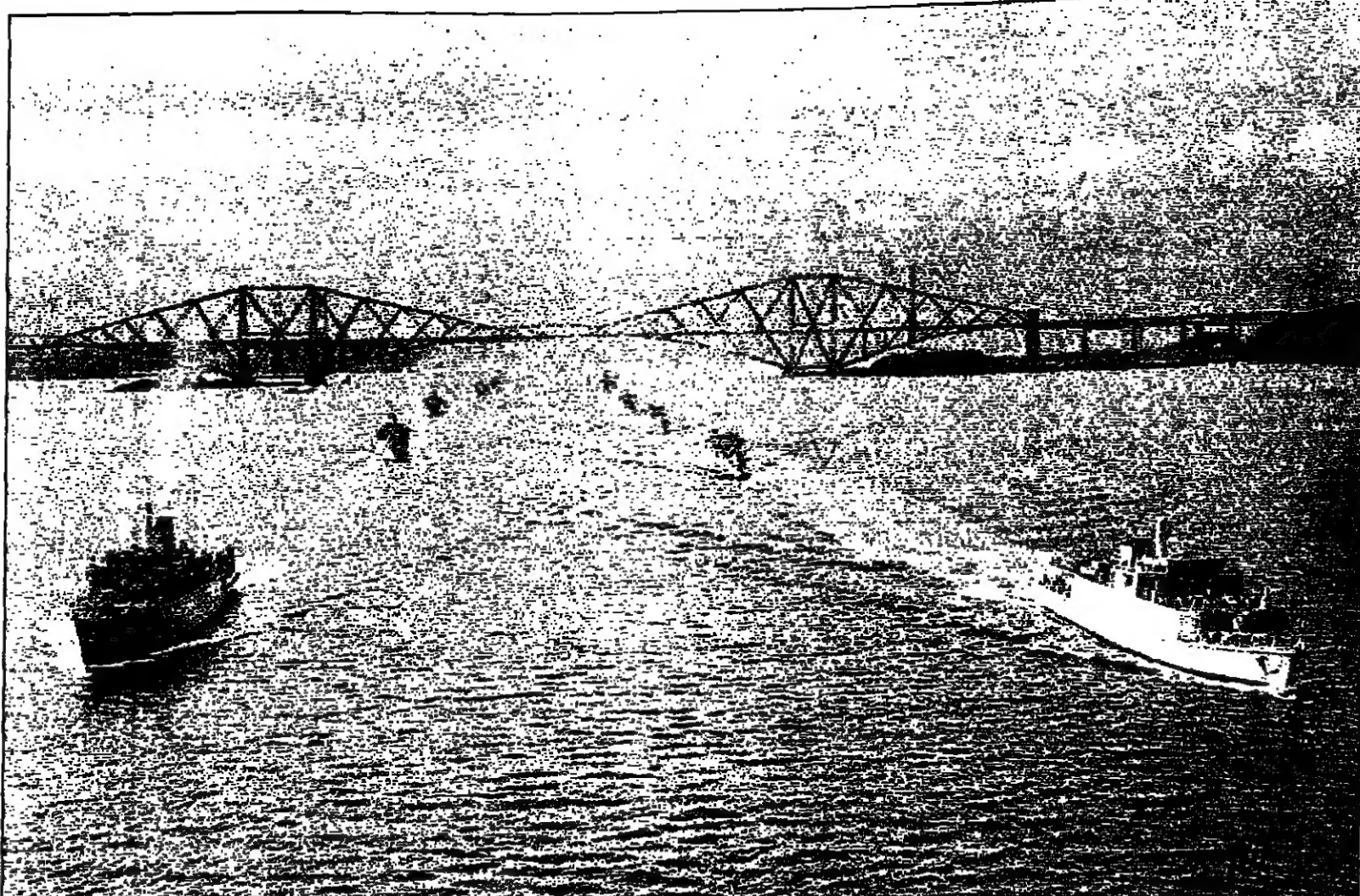
The MPs called for a similar British study by an independent body, and an investigation by Porton Down, the chemical defence research establishment in Wiltshire, into the short and long-term effects

of drugs and tablets given to troops to counter the threat posed by Iraq's chemical and biological warfare capability. This "cocktail" of drugs could have caused the subsequent illnesses, said the report.

The ministry said there were no plans for a full epidemiological study, although it will ask experts in tropical diseases, toxicology and immunology to review work on those veterans that have come forward for medical examination. Paediatricians will be consulted over claims of birth defects.

Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, criticised the MPs' report as "unhelpful and disappointing". He said: "Everything possible that can be done has been done and will be done. We retain an open mind on this issue and we are certainly not complacent."

□ *Gulf War Syndrome*, Defence Committee Eleventh Report (HMSO: £19.90)



Royal Navy ships sailing in line ahead out of Rosyth. The base, which has played a vital role in naval history, is to be redeveloped privately

Navy waives gun salute to Rosyth base

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ROSYTH took its place in naval history yesterday when the final ships left the Royal Navy base in Fife. Fourteen minesweepers and fisheries protection vessels sailed in line ahead into the Firth of Forth, but a 15-gun salute had to be cancelled because of technical problems.

Several hundred people lined the dockyard as the ships made their way towards the Forth road and rail bridges. Bands of the Royal Marines Scotland and the Ministry of Defence Police played Rod Stewart's *Sailing*. The ships left for Faslane on the Clyde and Portsmouth.

Many of those watching were families of the crew on board. Others were civilian workers at the dockyard. Most of the 1,000-strong workforce will leave the base this week although the Royal Navy does not relinquish control until March.

The base has been bought by the Rosyth 2000 consortium, which has promised to create up to 5,000 jobs and invest £100 million in the region. The consortium includes the Bank of Scotland, Scottish Power, Forth Ports, Fife Regional Council and Babcock International, which runs the adjacent commercial dockyard.

Rosyth was developed as a naval base at the turn of the century in response to alarm at the growth in the German High Seas Fleet. In 1903 the

Government bought 1,200 acres, including Rosyth Castle, from the Marquess of Linlithgow at Rosyth.

Building the deep water basin, entrance lock, dry docks and ancillary buildings was a huge enterprise with 550 acres being reclaimed from the sea. The work was not completed until 1915.

The first ship to enter for repair was *HMS Zealandia* in March 1916. Three months later the first ships of the Grand Fleet were towed in for repair after the Battle of Jutland. During the First World War it handled almost 200 ships including 78 battleships and battle cruisers.

The base was closed temporarily during the Depression but over the past 50 years Rosyth has been called on in every big conflict including the Korean War, the Falklands and the Gulf War.

Yesterday Vice-Admiral Christopher Morgan, Flag Officer for Scotland and Northern Ireland, saluted the 14 ships from his station aboard *HMS Bicester*, which had steamed from Portsmouth for the occasion. Unveiling a plaque to the civilian and uniformed workforce, he said it was a day of "great sadness and nostalgia".

"We have a yard which has supported ships over eight decades and that support would not have been possible without a skilled, loyal and dedicated workforce."

Father of Child B denies deception

THE father of Jaymee Bowen, the cancer victim originally known as Child B, has been sent for trial on deception charges over housing benefit claims.

David Bowen, 32, whose 11-year-old daughter was refused a second NHS bone marrow transplant before an anonymous benefactor paid for her £75,000 treatment, denies the allegations. The charges against Mr Bowen, a property consultant, will be heard at Bury St Edmunds Crown Court next year.

Mr Bowen was committed with two co-defendants by a judge at Ipswich Crown Court, who agreed to postpone the start of the trial after a private hearing.

Earlier this year Mr Bowen lost a High Court battle to force the Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Authority to continue to treat his daughter, whose plight became the subject of national debate. Last month a ban on identifying her was lifted, enabling her family to sell its story to raise more funds for her leukaemia treatment.

Mr Bowen is planning to sue the health authority over his daughter's original care. Jaymee's consultant now estimates that her chances of a prolonged remission or cure have improved from less than 10 per cent when experimental treatment was refused to nearly 30 per cent.

Airline pilot flew low 'to wave at his wife'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A PILOT has been grounded amid claims that he flew a charter aircraft low over his house to "buzz" his wife on her birthday. The flyer, at between 1,500ft and 2,000ft by the Ibiza-bound plane prompted scores of calls to Manchester airport from people in Congleton, Cheshire, who thought it was in trouble.

Congleton is 12 miles from the end of the Manchester runway and the normal flight level over the town is 4,000ft. The Britannia Airways jet, which was not carrying passengers, had been cleared by air traffic control to fly over at half that height.

The incident prompted a demand for an inquiry into air traffic control procedures. Jeff Gazzard, of Manchester Airport Environmental Network, said: "The pilot had asked to fly at 2,000ft so he could wave to his wife. Air traffic controllers are the policemen of the skies and should not have allowed this. There should be an immediate inquiry."

Britannia said that the captain and co-pilot of the Boeing 767 had been suspended for carrying out a "non-standard" manoeuvre on October 30. An internal inquiry is under way.

The Civil Aviation Authority said: "The minimum height over this area would be 1,500ft and that was about the height the plane was at."

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Political lobbyists turn away from discredited MPs

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE stature of MPs in the commercial world has been so badly damaged by the cash-for-questions affair that most political lobbyists have already severed their links with them.

Payments to MPs, or members of MPs' families, have been banned by the Association of Professional Political Consultants, which includes the big five companies.

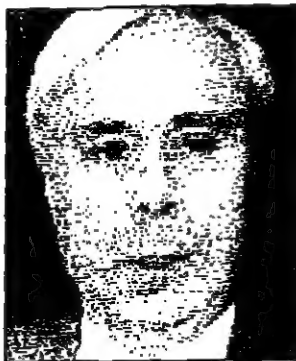
David Mellor is one of the first high-profile casualties of the Nolan inquiry. Last week Shandwick Consultants, the public affairs arm of a company run by Peter Gummer, brother of John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, dispensed with his services.

Tom McNally, Shandwick's public affairs director, said: "It was a mutual decision to coincide with the vote on Monday. The arrangement was frankly no longer worth the candle. Neither Shandwick nor David Mellor wants to be dragged into all this controversy about cash-for-questions and MPs' consultancies. It's just not worth it."

Mr McNally, who was political secretary to James Callaghan when he was Prime Minister, said: "There was a time when clients believed that having an MP on the books gave them street credibility. But that is not the case anymore. We no longer have an MP on our books. There is no longer any point."

Lord Parkinson, former Tory party chairman, is winding up Task Force Communications, which he chairs, because Gerald Howarth, the prospective Tory candidate for Aldershot, is a director. Mr Howarth said: "There is no point in trying to build up a client base if I am going to have to quit when I become an MP. Nolan has destroyed a thriving company."

Michael Burrell, managing director of Westminster Strategy, one of the biggest lobbyists, said: "You will find that far fewer lobbying consultancies in future will see any value in employing MPs. Companies who are the clients of consultancies will question whether they are getting any



Greer: says lobbyists do not need MPs

THE PERSUADERS

value out of their consultancy employing an MP now that the MP is not allowed to put down questions or table early day motions."

He argued that the reforms voted for on Monday were inadequate. Westminster Strategy has never employed MPs, and he says that other lobbying firms should not employ them either. "Nolan recommended a complete ban on lobbying companies employing MPs. I wish Parliament had voted for that. Lobbying consultancies will still be able to employ MPs to give advice. That is a pity."

Ian Greer, the Shadow Leader of the Commons, has resigned her non-executive directorship of Westminster Communications. Mrs Taylor, who argued in the Commons debate on Monday that MPs should accept disclosure if they had nothing to hide, did not reveal her fee.

Richard Faulkner, managing director of Westminster Communications, said that MPs were no longer the asset they used to be. The decision to end arrangements with MPs such as Mrs Taylor had been taken for commercial reasons.

lobbyists. Mr Greer, an architect of the self-regulatory association of lobbyists which drew up the no-MPs rule, said: "The importance of the Nolan report on lobbyists has been greatly exaggerated. I would say 95 per cent of lobbyists have no financial connection whatsoever with MPs. If they did, they have ended them."

"The prime source of MPs' additional income has been as advisers to commercial companies and professional and trade associations. These are wholly distinct from professional lobbying companies. They will now review their relationships with MPs. Full disclosure will lift the veil on lobbying and demonstrate that they haven't got, and don't need, the services of MPs."

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Simon Jenkins, page 16
Leading article, page 17



DISCLOSURE OF EARNINGS: WHAT IT MEANS FOR LABOUR AND TORY

Michael Connarty is one of Labour's biggest "earners". Most MPs who are sponsored by trade unions receive an average of about £600 a year plus election expenses. But Mr Connarty, MP for Falkirk East, gets £8,000 a year from the Union of Communication Workers, all of which is paid directly to his Scottish constituency. The amount is disclosed in the Register of Members' Interests and no extra election payments are made.

The payment is an historic one, given to his predecessor, the Labour MP Harry Ewing, who was a post office worker. It goes towards paying the salary of a member of staff in the constituency office and towards the funding of campaigns. None of it goes to Mr Connarty personally. He has occasional meetings with representatives of the union to advise them on Scottish matters or anything they have a particular interest in.

He has also tabled two early day motions and several questions relating to the Post Office, but in each case has declared his interest. One tabled last year expresses concern about post office closures and commends a day of action called by the union. He has been advised that he can table similar motions in the future but no reference should be made to the union concerned.

Nicholas Winterton has three directorships and is a paid parliamentary adviser to three other companies but is fighting pressure to declare the money he receives from all of them.

Mr Winterton, the Conservative MP for Macclesfield, says that he will abide by any rules laid down by the Parliamentary Commissioner and will disclose fees from the two jobs which he thought were relevant to his parliamentary work.

He is a director of the Government Relations Unit and a parliamentary adviser to the Construction Plant-hire Association. But he is not keen to give details of the fees he earns from his other work which he considers unrelated to his position as an MP. "Members are now no longer allowed to earn any money at all by advocating a cause in Parliament, and clearly, therefore, there is no income to be disclosed," he said.

Several other MPs with outside interests also say they are not prepared to disclose fees for work not directly related to the Commons. Some have said that they will have to look at how contracts could be changed so that the parliamentary element is removed or the contract split with only a minimal amount entered for parliamentary work.

Sir Michael Neubert, a former defence minister, has threatened to defy the new rules requiring disclosure of MPs' earnings. He says that they are "not the law of the land" and he cannot be forced to abide by them.

Sir Michael, MP for Romford, says that colleagues set a precedent for not following the Commons rules on disclosure when they refused to divulge details of their membership of Lloyd's insurance syndicates. He lists in the Register of Members' Interests his role as an adviser to the Federation of Master Builders and to the National Market Traders' Federation, and his membership of the advisory board to the cable telecommunications company Bell Cablemedia.

Although he is adamant that he will resist pressure from senior colleagues, the newly created Select Committee on Standards and Privileges—effectively the Commons court—will be given strengthened powers to deal with recalcitrant backbenchers. The new eleven-member cross-party committee will be able to hold disciplinary hearings in public. It will retain the wide-ranging powers of the Privileges Committee to recommend that MPs be fined, suspended or even expelled from the Commons.

Tough new Commons regime will be felt immediately

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A STRICT new disciplinary regime will begin next week to expose MPs' financial affairs to the most detailed public scrutiny seen at Westminster.

The disclosure of outside earnings and the ban on paid advocacy will mean drastic changes to the income of MPs with wide business interests.

The first curbs will be seen when the Commons returns for the Queen's Speech on Wednesday. The ban on paid

advocacy will take effect immediately, preventing them from tabling questions, motions, or amendments to Bills and from introducing Bills on behalf of any client who pays them a fee.

MPs will be barred from entering any new contracts for paid advocacy but those already with contracts will have until March 31 next year to end them. MPs will be allowed to work as paid advisers, offering information about parliamentary procedures and other matters. Fees for

consultancy services directly related to Commons work is to be disclosed in bands of up to £1,000, £1,000-£5,000, then in bands of £5,000.

New contracts for advisory work must be submitted immediately for approval by the new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. Established contracts for advisory work, or those that need to be amended to comply with the new rules, must be submitted by March 31.

MPs with paid interests will be prevented from initiating

debates on subjects directly related to their client, although they can take part in debates initiated by colleagues. An MP paid by, say, the Police Federation, representing rank-and-file policemen, would be able to contribute to a debate on law and order but probably not on police pay, because such a speech might bring "particular benefit" to the organisation making payment.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, will decide

whether an MP's outside interests are a direct consequence of being in the Commons. For instance, an MP who writes or broadcasts directly because of his Commons position would be expected to declare his earnings, but a colleague who worked as a journalist before entering the Commons might not have to.

Sir Gordon will start work next week advising MPs on ethics, propriety and standards. He will receive initial complaints against MPs be-

fore referring them, if warranted, to the new Select Committee for Privileges and Standards.

He will administer the new code of conduct, based on recommendations from the Nolan inquiry, demanding that MPs follow the "seven principles of public life", showing selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, leadership and honesty.

The select committee will have powers to hear evidence in public, unless there are

potential legal difficulties. MPs facing allegations will be allowed to cross-examine witnesses making complaints.

Labour MPs whose constituencies receive financial support from a trade union are likely to be barred from advocating on the union's behalf if payments are arranged by or paid via the MP. MPs will not be able to arrange or attend ministerial deputations if their client is the only beneficiary. However, such visits will be allowed if wider issues are to be discussed.

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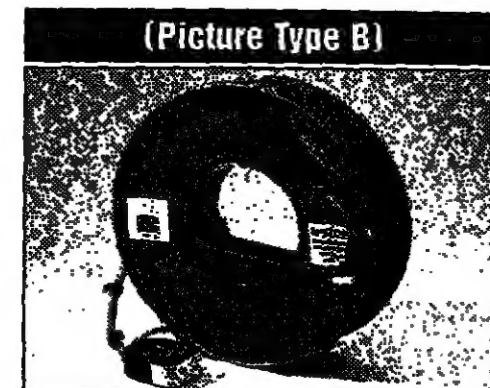
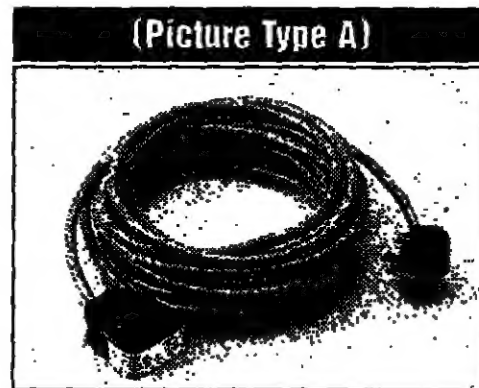
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Hockney accuses art school of dodging the draught

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

DAVID HOCKNEY, Britain's most celebrated living artist and an outstanding draughtsman, yesterday criticised art schools that do not teach drawing.

Speaking at the Royal Academy of Arts, where an exhibition of his drawings opens tomorrow, Hockney lamented that art schools were neglecting to teach students essential technical and craft skills. "It is sad when the colleges abandon the teaching of certain kinds of craft," he said.

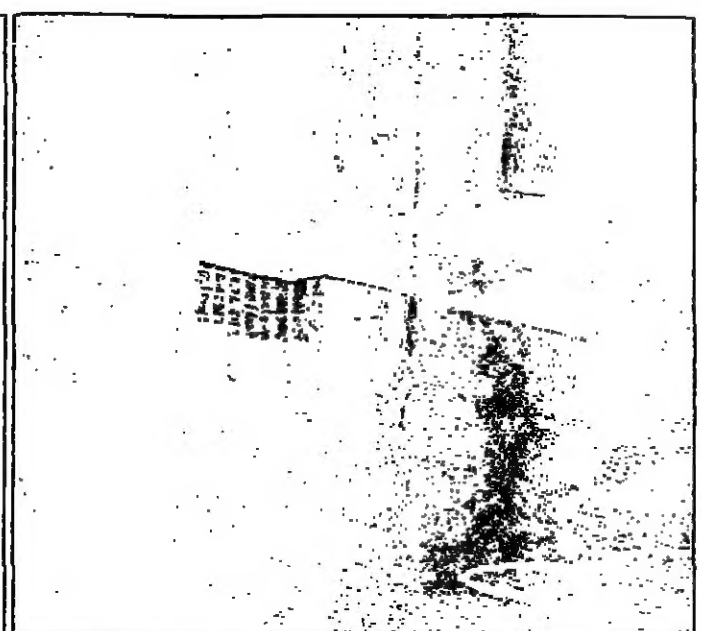
His intervention reignited the row that has raged since the 1960s about whether craftsmanship is being sacrificed by art schools in pursuit of creativity.

Drawing, Hockney said, should be the eye into reality looking at the world around us. He recalled how from a very young age he was inspired by anything with a distinct drawn line, from Mickey Mouse to cartoons in newspapers.

Mr Hockney learnt the rules before breaking them at Bradford College of Art and then the Royal College of Art.

The Royal Academy showed the first painting he exhibited, an image of Mount Street in Bradford, in 1957. The painting has since disappeared, but a pencil sketch for it will be in his latest show, among 176 images of portraits, landscapes, still lifes and stage designs.

Hockney said he hoped the exhibition would inspire people to put pen to paper, even if only as a hobby. As an



Displaying diversity, examples of Hockney's work on show at the Royal Academy of Arts from tomorrow: *Cased*, 1994, left; *Gregory*, 1978, centre; and *Study of Water*, Phoenix, Arizona, 1976

essay in the exhibition catalogue points out, drawing is the discipline that has informed Hockney's approach to every medium, from painting to faxes and photocopying. "Drawing was the intellectual discipline upon which all art was founded."

His attack on training was met with bemusement by art colleges. "What does he mean?" asked Nicholas De Ville, head of visual arts at Goldsmith's College, south-east London, whose graduates include Damien Hirst, the artist best-known for using dead animals. "I don't know that it's such a widespread phenomenon as some people make out. The problem is whether it is appropriate to put all the students

through the same batch of crafts-based programme and technical skills. All those things we still provide, but we allow the students to decide which of them are appropriate. It's a misconception that art schools don't provide these things anymore."

But he added: "The old pattern where they were expected to spend two years in the liferoom before doing anything else has been abandoned. And I think rightly. Not all students find drawing a way of making images."

Norman Rosenthal, exhibitions secretary of the RA, said that every line of Hockney's work revealed a "generosity of spirit and an enjoyment of life, whether he is looking at a glass or at his friends."

Show draws attention to vivid versatility

BY RICHARD CORK
CHIEF ART CRITIC

NO ARTIST could be more versatile than the deft, restless and unpredictable David Hockney. Even in his drawings, now assembled in profusion at a Royal Academy retrospective, the range of styles is astonishing.

At the Royal College of Art, as a star student in the early 1960s, Hockney seemed capable of anything. In one mood he spent a week making a careful study of a skeleton. His fellow student R.B. Kitaj admired it so much that he bought the drawing for £5. But Hockney was equally willing to produce wildly executed images. Gandhi became the subject of a crayon study called *Love*. Later Hockney's style became wittier,

sexier and more precise. Nude men, usually showering, make a provocative entrance to the show.

Los Angeles produced an outpouring of brilliantly coloured studies. Fascinated by lawn sprinklers and swimming pools shimmering in the sun, Hockney defined the city in an unforgettable way. It was the opposite of everything he had grown up with in his native Bradford, and Los Angeles became his home.

The Royal Academy show proves that people enthral Hockney even more than places. Stephen Spender is the full-length subject of the most detailed pencil drawing, which displays a skill worthy of the Old Masters. But Hockney is wary of the academic trap. His most recent large drawings of family and friends show a new boldness and vigour.



The designer Ossie Clarke drawn in crayon in 1970



W.H. Auden's wrinkles etched in ink in 1968

Whitehall waste costs taxpayer £900m

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

POOR management of the Government's biggest construction projects is costing taxpayers up to £900 million each year, a Cabinet Office report disclosed yesterday.

Sir Peter Levene, the Prime Minister's personal adviser on efficiency, said that better management and supervision in Whitehall could save some 15 per cent of the £6 billion spent every year on building hospitals, courts, laboratories, military installations, prisons and roads. The

report criticised civil servants for dodging responsibility for decisions and their "obsession" with accepting the lowest bid for a project. A quarter of schemes suffered budget overruns because contracts were awarded on the basis of unrealistic forecasts and incomplete briefs.

The 20 projects studied, including the British Library, the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and the new Inland Revenue headquarters in Nottingham, showed an increase of £500 million or 24 per cent over their initial approved costs.

One department, which has not been identified, ran a project which "suffered from adversarial relationships, cost increases and significant delays and is now unlikely to deliver a building that matches the requirements of the business," the report said.

It recommends forcing senior civil servants to take personal responsibility in the future. Each government construction project with a budget of more than £1 million will have a named investment decision maker, a project owner and a project sponsor.

Housing benefit cuts 'a false economy'

BY IAN MURRAY

GOVERNMENT plans to cut housing benefits and change the rules for helping the homeless will save £170 million but could cost an extra £918 million, according to Shelter, the housing charity.

In a report today Shelter says that the changes will put an extra 80,000 private renting families into poverty. From the start of the new

year, each area will have a "local reference rent" for which housing benefit can be claimed. However, the reference rent may be less than the reasonable market rent for the area, but benefit will be paid on only half the difference between the two.

Shelter says that many families have been able to find accommodation only by paying more than even the going market rate. Cutting housing

benefit will force them into poverty.

The charity says the problem will be exacerbated by proposals in the Housing White Paper to deny homeless households priority on housing lists. That will force them to accept temporary high-cost private accommodation.

The cost of paying high rents for the homeless is estimated at £118 million a year. Housing benefits will

need to increase by £600 million to meet escalating private rents and a further £200 million could be needed in social security as low wage earners, unable to meet rising rents, drop out of work.

Chris Holmes, Shelter's director, said: "The fact is that homeless families denied priority for rehousing and forced into high-cost private lets, could well face recurring homelessness."

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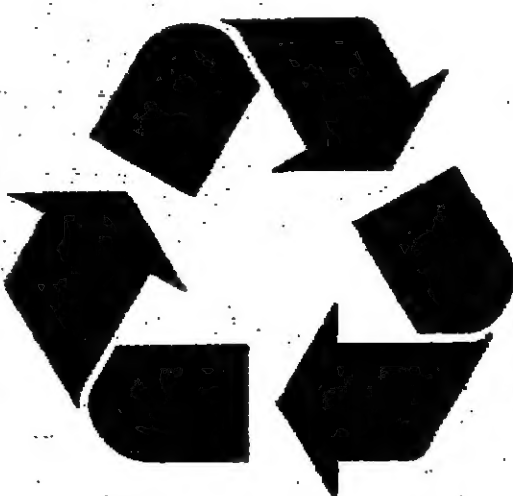
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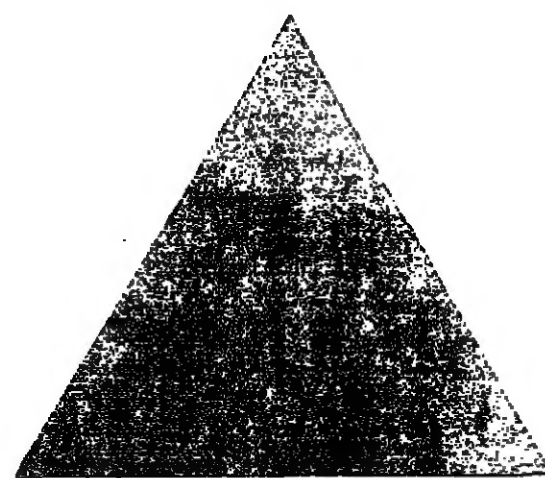


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Nigeria tops the agenda for heads of Commonwealth

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR flew out of Israel yesterday to Auckland, where he will arrive with other Commonwealth heads of government for a summit likely to be dominated by two themes: democracy in member countries and French nuclear tests.

The Prime Minister will give strong support to a Commonwealth proposal for graduated measures, culminating in sanctions and suspension of membership, against rogue states that flout the 1991 Harare declarations on democracy, human rights and good governance. Nigeria will be the focus of this Commonwealth initiative. Efforts will also be made to enforce a return to democracy in two other countries under military rule: Sierra Leone and The Gambia.

The Commonwealth, now comprising 52 members after the admission of Cameroon, is unlikely to press for Nigeria's suspension.

"There will be some who may want to condemn, there will be some who may want to exclude, but to exclude people from meetings means that you just lose all capacity to influence or have dialogue with them," Don McKinnon, the New Zealand Foreign Minister, said in a radio interview. He said it was better to have countries such as Nigeria "inside the tent and us talking to them", rather than outside and no one talking to anybody.

Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Develop-

ment Minister, who will attend the summit instead of Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, made clear last week that Britain will use the four-day meeting for straight talking to General Sani Abacha, the Nigerian military leader.

Lady Chalker also hopes that President Mandela of South Africa, which is attending the meeting for the first time in more than 30 years, will use his moral influence to press Nigeria and other African countries with authoritarian regimes to respond to calls for greater democracy. Thabo Mbeki, the first Deputy President, visited Abuja to urge General Abacha to spare the lives of condemned opponents, but South Africa is reluctant to press for sanctions.

Britain hopes that the combined pressure of other leaders will persuade General Abacha, the writer sentenced to hang for alleged complicity in the murder of moderate leaders in Ogoniland. Britain also wants Nigeria to speed up the proposed three-year transition to democracy, which Lady Chalker said was "clearly too long".

South Pacific countries will insist on a motion condemning France for continuing underground nuclear tests on Mururoa atoll, and Mr Major will be criticised for his outspoken endorsement of President Chirac's policies. New Zealand and Australia have taken the lead in condemning France and calling for a trade boycott, but as host country New Zealand may wish to avoid embarrassing the Prime Minister.

Paul Keating, the Australian Prime Minister, who has been critical of his country's remaining constitutional links with Britain, may use the nuclear issue to press home sharp attacks on Britain and Mr Major in particular. He is not expected to seek a confrontation with the Queen at the summit, however. She has made clear that it is up to Australia to decide whether it wants to become a republic.

Commonwealth leaders will also discuss development policies and debt relief for the poorer nations. Of the 52 members, all but four classify themselves as developing countries.

Wellington: New Zealand's keenest anti-royalist made a trademark roadside protest yesterday with an air fresher can as the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh strolled round Ellerslie racecourse in Auckland (Michael Mawro writes).

Sam Branson, who was fined £410 for lunging at the Prince of Wales with an aerosol can last year, made a protest, agreed with the police, as the royal motorcade travelled to Auckland airport to the city. He brandished a placard saying "bad smell is upon us".

One of the three American servicemen accused of raping a 12-year-old schoolgirl is led into court in Naha City yesterday, hidden behind police shields. Two Marines have denied rape, but admitted two other charges



One of the three American servicemen accused of raping a 12-year-old schoolgirl is led into court in Naha City yesterday, hidden behind police shields. Two Marines have denied rape, but admitted two other charges

US sailor admits Okinawa rape

FROM PEREGRINE HODSON IN TOKYO

THE trial of three American servicemen accused of raping a 12-year-old girl opened yesterday in Naha City, Okinawa. Marcus Gill, 22, a Navy seaman, pleaded guilty to charges of rape, abduction and battery, but his two companions, Kendrick Ledet, 20, and Rodrico Harp, 21, both US Marines, denied the rape but admitted the other two charges.

The three men arrived at court, their faces hidden by police shields. They were led into the courtroom in handcuffs, which were removed once they were seated. According to the prosecution statement submitted to the three judges — Japan has no jury system — Mr Gill was the ringleader. The prosecution said

that at about 8pm on September 4 the accused drove to the village of Kin, near the prefectural capital of Naha, where they ambushed the girl who had been shopping. The men are alleged to have tied her up and covered her face with tape, before driving her to an isolated beach where, according to the prosecution, they took turns raping her.

The incident has provoked outrage in Okinawa, where resentment against the American presence culminated last month in a demonstration of more than 50,000 people calling for an apology and compensation for the victim and the scaling down of US bases.

The anger roused by the rape has been exploited to challenge the future of the

American military presence in Japan. While informed debate is long overdue, emotions have reached such a pitch that relations between the two countries are becoming critical. Much will depend on what happens in the trial, which is scheduled to last six weeks with a ruling by the end of the year. Japan's justice system attaches great importance to expressions of apology and remorse — the future of Japanese-American relations may be influenced by the demeanour of the three US servicemen.

Whatever the verdict, it is unlikely to diminish the Okinawans' determination to seek a fairer distribution of the American presence in Japan, of which 75 per cent is concentrated in the prefecture.

Peking in struggle over lama successor

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA and the Dalai Lama appeared to be locked in a fresh power struggle yesterday over choosing the successor to Tibet's second most senior monk.

Peking was insisting that it had the final say over identifying a young boy as the reincarnation of the late Panchen Lama. The issue is likely to cause deep concern within Tibet, especially after the disappearance of the Dalai Lama's candidate.

Foreign diplomats in Peking last night described as quaint and decidedly bizarre China's insistence on claiming that, while still an avowed Communist and atheist state, it knows more about arcane Buddhist practices for identifying the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama than does Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

Yesterday China renewed its criticism of the Dalai Lama, who has lived in exile in northern India since he fled Tibet in 1959 after the crushing of an uprising against Chinese rule, over his naming last May of a six-year-old boy as the reincarnated Panchen Lama, who died in 1989 a few days after criticising China's harsh rule in Tibet.

The new attack comes after the Tibetan government-in-exile in India accused China last weekend of forcing 100 high Tibetan lamas to gather in Peking for a new selection process. Whether the Dalai Lama's candidate will be one of those in the lottery remains uncertain.

Nevertheless, the squabbling over this religious issue is likely to cause deep concern within Tibet itself, diplomats here said, especially after the mysterious disappearance of the Dalai Lama's candidate, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, to succeed the Panchen Lama, a sometimes controversial figure who some accused of being a stooge of Peking and others a man who worked for Tibet from within the Chinese system.

Whatever the case, the Panchen Lama was denounced and tortured by leftists during the Cultural Revolution. The disappearance of the respected Abbot of Tashilunpo, Chadré Rinpoche, who originally identified the discovery of the reincarnation after a search process throughout Tibet, is also causing concern. Apparently, he first divulged the information secretly, possibly by courier over the Himalayas, to the Dalai Lama.

He is believed to have been arrested in May and he was replaced at Tashilunpo monastery in the Tibetan town of Xigaze in September.

Police tighten security around Mandela

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

SECURITY around President Mandela and members of his Cabinet has been strengthened as shockwaves triggered by the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, wash over South Africa.

In a statement yesterday, George Fivaz, the Police Commissioner, said he had ordered all police officers

responsible for the safety of Mr Mandela, Deputy Presidents Thabo Mbeki and F.W. de Klerk and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Home Affairs Minister and leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, to be placed on alert. He said that was not in response to any specific threat but that those responsible for security must avoid complacency and learn from the Israeli murder.

Mr Fivaz added: "We simply cannot afford to think we are immune to such lunacy. Parallels exist between the Israeli-Palestinian and South African political processes and it would be disastrous if especially the leaders of the major parties of the Government were harmed."

Still fresh in the minds of South Africans is the assassination in April 1993 of Chris Hani, the General Secretary of the South African Communist

Party and at the time one of the most senior figures in the African National Congress. He was shot outside his home near Johannesburg by a right-wing Polish immigrant opposed to the emancipation of blacks. In the run-up to last year's national election, South Africa was gripped by a right-wing bombing campaign and the security shake-up comes amid renewed fears of extremist insurgency.

The Government's claim that there are only 100,000 refugees seems to be nonsense. S. Thillanandaram, the most senior government official in Kilinochchi district, south of Jaffna, said last night that more than 110,000 displaced Tamils had reached the area. They were crowded into schools, churches and temples. Tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands,

Leaflet airdrop in Jaffna aims to stem Tamil panic

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN COLOMBO

THE Sri Lankan Government has begun dropping leaflets over the Jaffna peninsula to try to persuade hundreds of thousands of Tamil civilians that "this war is not against you". The campaign came as a sea of people moved through the countryside, soaked, homeless and hungry. They are plainly terrified.

The Government's claim that there are only 100,000 refugees seems to be nonsense. S. Thillanandaram, the most senior government official in Kilinochchi district, south of Jaffna, said last night that more than 110,000 displaced Tamils had reached the area. They were crowded into schools, churches and temples. Tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands,

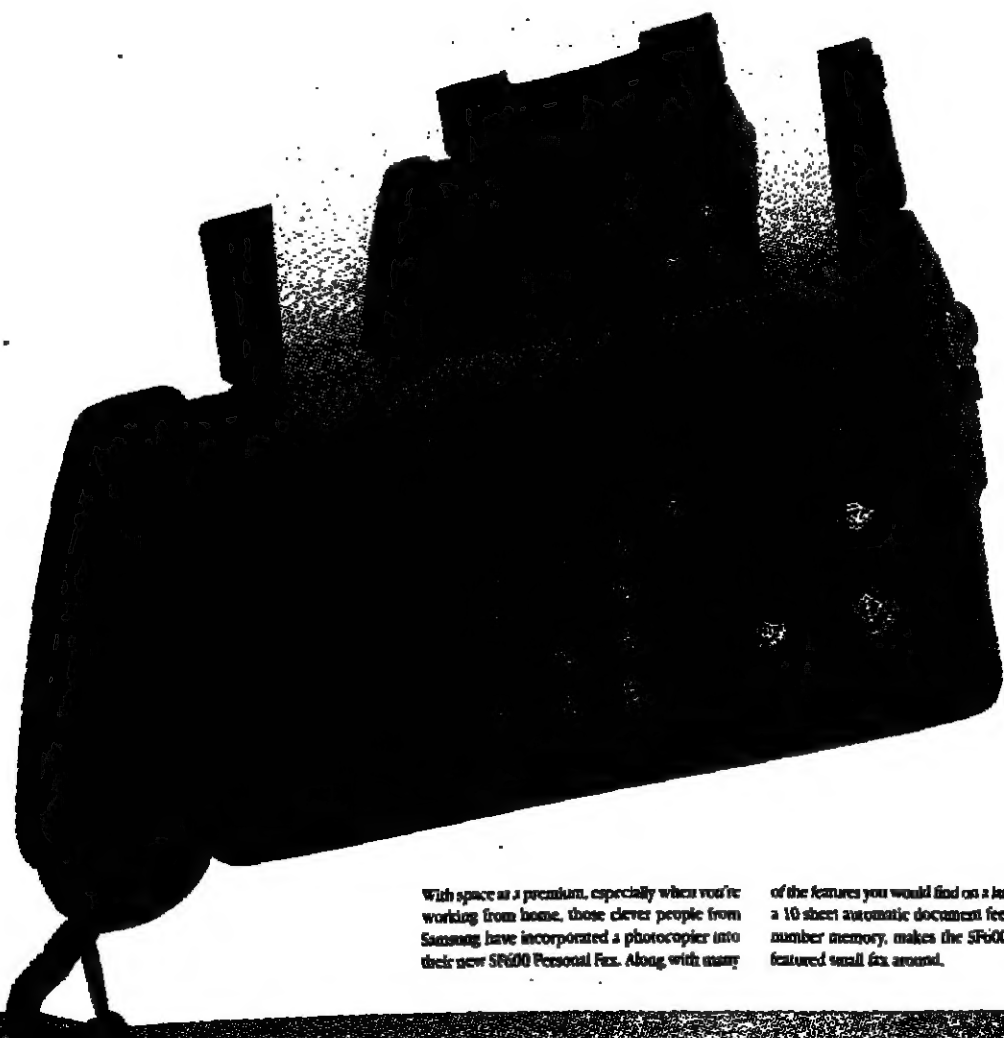


were still on their way. He described chaos on the shores of Jaffna lagoon as people clambered with their possessions on board 1,000 small boats for the two-hour trip to the mainland. Every day fewer boats were available because fuel was running out. Most of those fleeing had walked long distances in monsoon storms. Most had spent nights with friends and relatives, but many had slept in the rain.

Aid agencies, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, say there are 300,000 to 400,000 displaced people from intensified fighting since July. But everybody is guessing. Nobody even is sure about the population of the Jaffna peninsula, which was 830,000 when the last census was taken, in the 1980s.

The administrative and political headquarters in Jaffna town of the secessionist Tigers has collapsed. Denied taxation and other income, the rebels are desperate for money.

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D A T A S T R E A M
IN DEPTH · IN CONTEXT · INTERNATIONAL

Peking in struggle over lama successor

FROM JAMES PUNAM IN PEKING

CHINA and the Dalai Lama appeared to be locked in a fresh power struggle today over choosing the successor to Tibet's second senior monk.

Peking was insisting on had the final say over the reincarnation of the late Panchen Lama. The issue is to cause deep concern in Tibet, especially after the disappearance of the late lama's candidate.

Foreign diplomats in Beijing last night described China's insistence on deciding that, while still an officially Communist and atheist state, it knows more about the Buddhist pantheon of the Panchen Lama than does Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

Yesterday China renewed criticism of the Dalai Lama who has lived in northern India since fleeing Tibet in 1959 after crushing of an 1949-1950 Chinese rule over the region. Last May of 1994, a 10-year-old boy as the reincarnated Panchen Lama, died in 1994 a few days after China's leader in Tibet.

The new attack comes after Tibetan government officials in India accused China last weekend of forcing Tibetan lamas to accept a new candidate. Whether the lama's candidate will be with one of the lamas or not.

Nevertheless, the Chinese over the religious issue to cause deep concern in Tibet. Tibet's monks were said to have protested and violence broke out in the Dalai Lama's residence in Lhasa. The Chinese government is accused of forcing the monks to accept a new candidate. The monks were said to have protested and violence broke out in the Dalai Lama's residence in Lhasa. The Chinese government is accused of forcing the monks to accept a new candidate.

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out a paddle.

have all your
in the water?

have all your
in the water?

Juppé reshuffles Cabinet before tackling reforms

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, ordered a surprise Cabinet reshuffle yesterday as President Chirac sought to breathe fresh vigour into his flagging presidency and pave the way for painful economic reforms.

After just six months in office, M Juppé formally tendered the resignation of his Government yesterday morning. M Chirac immediately reappointed M Juppé to oversee the creation of a new Cabinet, more clearly committed to reducing the budget deficit.

None of the top ministers had to lose a post, although the Health Minister, Elisabeth Hubert, and Colette Codacci, the Minister for Solidarity between the Generations, were both dismissed. Their jobs were incorporated into a new "super-ministry" for social affairs under the Labour Minister, Jacques Barrot, who will oversee the reform of the welfare system.

The Cabinet, including 12 women, was reduced from 41 to 32, with four new arrivals and 13 departures, among them eight women.

The new streamlined Government underlines M Chirac's determination to reduce spending, reinforce the franc and ensure that France can meet the economic criteria for European monetary union. The franc gained ground yesterday and the bond and stock markets reacted positively.

The Government includes several supporters of Edouard Balladur, the former Prime Minister and M Chirac's erstwhile presidential rival.

During his election campaign, M Chirac promised to create new jobs, cut taxes and mend France's tattered social fabric, but in a television interview on October 26 he moved away from those pledges in favour of a more rigorous austerity drive. Reducing the budget deficit, now more than 5 per cent of GDP, was the "priority of priorities", M Chirac said.

In his six months in office, the Juppé Government has faced steadily dwindling opinion polls, strikes, a wave of terrorist attacks, corruption

Cutting the budget deficit, more than 5 per cent of GDP, is the priority of priorities

allegations and growing concern over the economy.

A new poll published today in *Le Parisien* provides the first sign that the tide may be turning in the Government's favour — President Chirac's popularity jumped by ten points to 42 per cent, the poll found. Yesterday's reshuffle was a bid to stop the slide, and prove to both financial markets and the French public that budget deficit reduction will go ahead, particularly in welfare reform.

Next week M Juppé will present proposals for overhauling the unwieldy welfare

system. Unions have called another strike for November 14 to protest at expected cuts in welfare.

M Juppé's first Cabinet was criticised as bulky, ill-defined and inexperienced. The new Cabinet, already nicknamed Juppé II, will forge "a more effective team", a government source said.

Rumours of a reshuffle have been building since mid-October, but most political observers predicted the President would wait until the new year, when budget discussions would be over, before making any radical changes.

The franc dropped sharply last month amid rumours that M Juppé might be forced to resign by a housing scandal, but without a credible alternative M Chirac decided to change his Cabinet rather than his Prime Minister.

Opponents claimed the reshuffle only undermined the Gaullist Government's fragility. "To my knowledge we have never seen a Government implode in this way, six months after it was created," Laurent Fabius, the former Socialist Prime Minister, said. M Chirac was serious about shoring up monetary union (Charles Bremner writes).

The shake-up had been widely expected after M Chirac's apparent conversion to the merits of monetary rigour, pronounced on October 26, the day after a meeting with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor.

Leading article, page 17



The first Cabinet of Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, pictured on May 20 at the Elysée Palace with President Chirac, fell victim to falling popularity polls. His new-look Cabinet is reduced from 41 to 32, with four new arrivals and 13 departures. Among the departures were eight women.

De Gaulle's glory gives no lustre to Chirac

BY BEN MACINTYRE

TWENTY-FIVE years after the death of General de Gaulle, hundreds of French soldiers will parade tomorrow before President Chirac, the self-proclaimed political heir to France's greatest 20th-century leader.

M Chirac will milk the occasion for every drop of reflected glory, but the comparison with his illustrious predecessor is hardly comfortable. This week French newspapers, magazines, television programmes and historians lavished praise on de Gaulle, recalling his wartime record, his postwar leadership and his haughty but majestic personality.

Battered by the lowest popularity ratings in recent French history, M Chirac may well be wondering tomorrow what went wrong.

One of his first acts on becoming the first Gaullist to occupy the Elysée for

21 years was to pay homage at the grave of "the commander", and in *Paris Match* this week, he penned a eulogy to de Gaulle: "Rarely in the past has a man or woman so embodied our country, its destiny, its aspirations, its calling, its culture."

However, M Chirac has laid himself open to attack from those who insist that he is no de Gaulle. "The weight of the commander bears down on the Elysée, Chirac has to withstand an intolerable comparison," the *Evénement de Jeudi* said.

Others have suggested that de Gaulle would have been appalled at the current state of France.

"Rampant corruption, weakening political will, government prostration before corporatism, the country's mounting ungovernability are among the features that would have shocked the founder of the Fifth Republic," thundered political analyst Olivier

Duhamel in this week's *L'Express* magazine.

M Chirac sought to prove his Gaullist bona fides soon after his election by boldly announcing the resumption of nuclear testing. When this was met with international condemnation, the President initially stood his ground but later cut back the number of tests.

M Chirac's enemies insist that a Gaullist search for "la gloire" is inappropriate to modern France, but some supporters grumble that the President's problems spring from a failure to behave more like his mentor.

Both with the resumption of nuclear testing and his aborted meeting with President Zeroual of Algeria, M Chirac gave advance warning of his plans, providing his enemies with ample time to mobilise. The general would simply have pressed the button, and then announced the fact.



De Gaulle: President Chirac is keen to match his mentor

NEWS IN BRIEF

War crimes tribunal attacks US

Washington: The chief prosecutor at a United Nations international war crimes tribunal has criticised American delays in divulging intelligence information needed to build criminal cases against those suspected of committing atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Tom Rhodes writes).

In a letter to the US Embassy in The Hague, Judge Richard Goldstone calls the "quality and timeliness" of information "disappointing".

Christian Charrier, for the tribunal, would not comment on speculation that information may have been withheld by America deliberately.

Polish winners

Warsaw: President Walesa and Aleksander Kwasniewski, the former Communist, are through to the second round of the Polish presidential elections on November 19, the poll commission said. (Reuters)

Lubbers setback

Washington: The Clinton Administration is reconsidering its support for Ruud Lubbers, the former Dutch Prime Minister, to succeed Willy Claes as Nato's next Secretary-General, sources said.

On the move

Asdila Ababa: About 100 million people are refugees, displaced or migrants constantly roving across international borders, the World Council of Churches told a five-day conference. (AP)

Italy moves to lift ban on heirs of Savoy monarchy

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE flamboyant heir to the Italian throne, Prince Vittorio Emanuele, celebrated yesterday after the Italian parliament agreed in principle to amend the Constitution to allow him to return home after nearly 50 years in exile.

The main political parties from across the spectrum struck the accord in the constitutional affairs committee of the Senate on Monday night, in response to growing public pressure to end the ban imposed on the direct male heirs to the House of Savoy setting foot on Italian soil.

The parliamentary whip of the former Communist Democratic Party of the Left, Cesare Salvi, said: "The ban against the Savoys has become an anachronism. After 50 years the republic is very solid. The Savoys no longer frighten anyone."

The monarchy was abolished in Italy in 1946 after a popular referendum in which republicans argued that the royal family had been discredited by its links with the Fascist dictatorship of Benito Mussolini.

Decisions reached overwhelmingly in parliamentary committee are normally endorsed by full sessions of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.

Vittorio Emanuele, 58, and his son, Emanuele Filiberto, 22, live in exile in Switzerland. Vittorio Emanuele said he intends to make his homecoming by ferry, landing at Naples. "I want to return by sea, since I left by sea. I was nine years old when I left Italy," he told *Il Messaggero*.

His cousin, the Duke of

Aosta, Amedeo of Savoy, who is the third in line to the throne and who was not affected by the ban, said on television that he hopes to run for the office of President of the republic if parliament adopts proposed reforms to introduce direct election of the head of state.

Many Italians prefer the Duke of Aosta to Vittorio Emanuele, who caused national embarrassment when he was tried in a French court on charges of manslaughter.

The Prince was acquitted in the case, in which he was accused of firing a rifle from his yacht when it was moored off Corsica, fatally wounding a German tourist who was sleeping in a vessel near by.

The long-haired Emanuele Filiberto has grown in popularity in recent months because of his commentaries on first-division football games that have been broadcast in Italian homes on the television soccer programme *Quelli che il Calcio*.



Vittorio Emanuele: "I will return by sea"

Emanuele's support for first-division Juventus evidently spurred Susanna Agnelli, the Foreign Minister, whose family owns the club, to state last month that the prince and his father should be allowed to enter Italy.

The deal between the parties stopped short of granting an additional long-standing request by monarchists that the bodies of the last Kings of Italy, Vittorio Emanuele III and Umberto II, be brought back to Italy together with that of the late Queen Elena.

"I did not want to introduce this question as well for fear of throwing in jeopardy our agreement," said Senator Filiberto Scalone, of the "post-fascist" National Alliance, who proposed the constitutional amendment with the support of the conservative Forza Italia party, the Italian Popular Party (former Christian Democrats), and of the devolutionist Northern League. Only the hardline Marxist party, Rifondazione Comunista, opposed the agreement.

The parties ruled out the return of royal property, confiscated after Italians in a referendum in 1946 voted to abolish the monarchy, to the Savoys. Signor Scalone said the amendment will be debated in the upper house by December 15.

Vittorio Emanuele said he was surprised by the decision, given the political bickering in recent weeks. "I did not imagine they would think of us with the current climate in Italy."

Leading article, page 17



Norbert Blüm: fought the Cabinet decision

Germans given more time to buy

FROM OUR BONN CORRESPONDENT

FOR the first time in almost 40 years, German shoppers will be allowed to buy provisions after 6.30pm and even on Saturday afternoons.

Yesterday's controversial Cabinet decision marks a watershed in German shopping habits. "It is a breakthrough," said Günter Renzold of the Free Democrats, the Economics Minister. "There will be an entirely new shopping culture."

Norbert Blüm, the Christian Democrat Labour Minister, fought against the changes, saying it would overburden shopworkers: "This was an attempt to find a middle way between the two extremes of doing nothing and doing everything."

German shops will be allowed to open between 6am and 8pm from Monday to Friday. On Saturday, shops can stay open until 4pm.

Bonn court lets pacifists call soldiers 'murderers'

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANS are free to describe soldiers as murderers, according to a constitutional court decision yesterday which cuts to the heart of the country's uneasy relationship with its army.

Volker Rühe, the Defence Minister, criticised the verdict, while pacifists, who have been displaying "Soldiers are murderers" stickers and posters, were celebrating the ruling as a triumph for freedom of speech.

The phrase "soldiers are murderers" is a quotation from the Weimar poet and satirist, Kurt Tucholsky, and has become a rallying call for those protesting about Germany's more active military role overseas. The controversy over the phrase has been hanging over the fortieth anniversary of the Bundeswehr, at a recent torch-lit parade in the centre of Bonn, for example, demonstrators chanted: "Murderers, murderers!".

Other protesters have been charged with libel for holding up "soldiers are murderers" placards during American military exercises in Germany and handing out leaflets denouncing army employees as "potential killers".

The constitutional court verdict yesterday — the second on the issue — made clear that it would still be against the law to approach a German soldier in a public house, for instance, and accuse him of murder: that would be a libel against an individual. But the broader use of the phrase is protected by the constitutional right to freedom of speech.

Herr Rühe could barely

hide his irritation. "I am utterly dismayed that young men who have a legal obligation to serve in the army cannot be given matching legal protection against the slanderous portrayal of their profession."

Other Christian Democrats joined in the chorus of protest. At stake, they said, was the whole image of the German army at a time of upheaval. In the past four years the East and West German armies have been merged, overall troop numbers have been cut

Bayreuth: One Turk died and two others were injured when fire swept through their house in southern Germany on Monday night, police said yesterday. The cause of the blaze is being investigated, but a police spokesman declined to rule out a racially motivated arson attack. (Reuters)

from 600,000 to 370,000, defence budget cuts have bitten deep and morale is reported to be low. At the same time, Nato and the United Nations are pressing Germany with more urgency to serve in missions in war zones such as the Balkans. That has ushered in a period of confusion, further compounded by historians who have dug up and publicised fresh evidence that the German army, not just the SS, was involved in the Holocaust.

"Just when we need good, honourable war heroes to show the young generation that it is possible to fight abroad with honour, we find more and more mud thrown at the army," a senior German officer said recently. The Social Democrats are pressing for army deserters from the Nazi era, thousands of whom were executed, to be declared the true German heroes of the Second World War, or at least to be rehabilitated.

The present row has prewar roots. The pacifist editor Carl von Ossietzky was sentenced to 18 months' jail in 1932 for publishing Kurt Tucholsky's statements. During his treason trial, he quoted Voltaire, Goethe, Kant and Herder, all of whom have described soldiers as murderers, executioners and butchers. Eventually, the editor was freed under an amnesty. Some years later he was sent to a concentration camp. Jürgen Trittin, the Greens' spokesman, was one of those celebrating the verdict yesterday. "Soldiers are paid to defend a democratic state," he said. "The central characteristic of democracy is the constitutional protection of freedom of speech."

Islamic conference: The foreign ministers of Iran, Egypt, Pakistan and Bosnia-Herzegovina are among senior figures invited to participate in a conference on "Europe and the Islamic world" to be hosted by Germany in Bonn next Wednesday and Thursday.

The German Foreign Ministry said that the conference was intended to "foster open dialogue and help to dissipate negative images" of each other. (AFP)

Details emerge of extraordinary hijack in Bay of Biscay

Almera heist executed with 'Bond' style precision

THE DRAMATIC off shore hijack of 5,594 brand new Nissan Almeras worth more than £50 million was executed with "Bond" style precision, a police spokesman revealed last night.

Nissan's 15,586 tonne cargo ship, *The City of*

Sunderland, disappeared from radar screens in The Bay of Biscay late last Tuesday night. Police are yet to confirm mysterious reports that a local fishing boat spotted another much larger ship in the area that failed to appear on radar. But "The idea that one ship could

swallow another is not beyond the bounds of credibility" a spokesman said.

The new Nissan Almera was launched to great acclaim on October 19th and made a very favourable impression with critics at this year's Motor Show held at London's Earl's Court. Nissan

are confident that the hijacked Almeras will not affect availability in the UK even though their showrooms have already reported record numbers of requests for test drives in the last two weeks.

A spokesman for Nissan told reporters "When we launched the Almera in

October we knew it would be a popular car, but this wasn't quite what we had in mind".

The new Almera boasts levels of comfort and technology not normally associated with a family hatchback. All models feature Nissan's highly innovative Multilink Beam Sus-



The new Nissan Almera: launched at the London Motor Show

pension which was developed for Nissan's top of the range executive car, the QX.

Police have dismissed the theory that the heist may

have been the work of a rival manufacturer as "pure speculation", although they admit that whoever was behind the heist must have had huge

financial resources.

Any member of the public wishing for further information on the new Almera should call 0345 66 99 66.

صلى الله عليه وسلم

The good news from America is that designers are united in offering a simple, user-friendly formula for style

The new Spare Chic: elegant, wearable, flattering



RALPH LAUREN: A winning style from the designer's vintage show



BILL BLASS: The ice-blue coat and dress ensemble looks chic



ISAAC MIZRAHI: The cut and colour combination of the season



RALPH LAUREN: A metallic sheen gives gloss to an understated look



MARC JACOBS: Talking downtown chic on a ride uptown



ANNA SUI: Traditional lines have become the height of fashion



MICHAEL KORS: The designer continues to pursue his policy of Spare Chic, and discovers that he collides with the minimalist mood of the moment



CALVIN KLEIN: Graphic, easy and carefree



DKNY: Going for the ultimate in zippy fashion



MARC JACOBS: Almost nothing to add

Photographs by
CHRIS MOORE
AND ANDREW THOMAS

NEW YORK

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

On the pavement on 42nd Street, outside the giant tents which housed the New York spring/summer 1996 fashion previews, an NYPD officer patrolling the block yawned. "Once you've seen one fashion show, you've seen 'em all," he said.

Having seen one show this season in New York, you did know pretty much what to expect from the others: a round neck, boxy jacket; a fly-front, longer-line jacket worn with pedal-pusher pants; a jacket with a zip; a fit 'n' flair shift dress; a long, matt jersey dress in a block of colour; a dress, jacket or shirt with a wide 1950s neckline; something in flesh pink — the Americans call it "nude"; something in creamy leather and anything in shantung silk. Oh, and a pair of barely-there sandals.

The problem, you see, is "Spare Chic", which is all the rage on Seventh Avenue, New York's rug-trade district. I mean, how spare can a collection be? How understated can a designer become without losing his or her identity?

The good news is that the clothes are user-friendly and flattering. They are undeniably chic — spare or otherwise. Three looks which will sell into summer from Ralph Lauren's show are his shantung silk trousersuits (in shades of blue from ice to Citrine-packet), his long, sensuous jersey evening dresses in bright colours, and his mae, sweater and trouser combination.

Where Lauren is supremely elegant, Calvin Klein and Donna Karan prefer modern. Both designers presented clean-cut collections which featured slinky, matt jersey, soft leathers and lots of black and white. Where Klein favoured pale blue, nude and custard cream, Karan offered a stronger palette: chestnut, lime, canary yellow, orange, pink, and silver grey. The accent of both collections being easy, pull-on/shrug-off clothes,

essentially downtown looks into something special.

There are no pretensions at Michael Kors. The designer still shows in his cramped showroom and continues to pursue his own brand of simplicity. For summer he offers boxy tunics with short or short skirts, rib knits, sleek tailoring and strapless evening gowns in predominantly neutral shades highlighted with orange, yellow and vivid apple green.

Of the rest, Isaac Mizrahi did 1950s chic a little too authentically; Anna Sui did two collections in one — trad chic and bad chic; Ghost got stuck in the lingerie department; Norma Kamali gave a retrospective of her greatest hits; and Victor Alfaro's streamlined looks make him a name to watch.

Overall, New York looked great, but sometimes just a little too familiar. At the DKNY show at the beginning of the week, Liza Minnelli turned up in the front row and the press went mad. She was there again at the last show, Donna Karan's mainline collection, but the buzz was not as enthusiastic. It is not that she wasn't still fabulous, it is just that we had kind of been there before.

As the cop said: "Once you've seen one Liza Minnelli, you've seen 'em all."

A Christmas Tapestry by Kaffe Fassett From Ehrman Tapestry



A formal evergreen border encloses this rich, traditional pattern. Like all the best Kaffe Fassett designs it would fit comfortably anywhere. A carpet of apples, leaves, winter berries and fruits cover the deep navy blue background. Yellows, peach and pinks, lime, pine and forest greens, fire reds and faded ochres are blended together in that unique way which makes Kaffe Fassett's needlework so distinctive. Measuring 15" x 15" the design is printed in full colour on 10 holes to the inch canvas. The pattern can be worked in either half-cross or tent stitch and enough 100% pure new wool from the Rowan range is included for either. The kit comes complete with wool, canvas, needle and clear instruction leaflet. All for £29.95 including postage and packing. When ordering use FREEPOST — no stamp is needed.

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Put the heart back into communities

Jack Straw outlines plans to revive our sense of responsibility

Britain must move from dependency back to vibrant community life. It would be idle to ignore the mounting evidence of individuals, families, and communities under great pressure, in some cases fractured, with little in the way of mutual support. Civic society depends more and more on a declining band of committed volunteers, while six out of ten registered voters do not even vote in local elections.

Most parents do not now allow their children to play outside unsupervised. Half of all women are afraid to drive alone at night through city areas. The proportion of parents who let their children walk to school unaccompanied has fallen by more than half in a decade, from 70 to 30 per cent. So when people call for "more bobbies on the beat" they make a profound statement about the importance of street life. They are saying that they want visible reassurance.

But the most powerful cause of community breakdown is economic insecurity. Many people, especially those unemployed or on low incomes, end up trapped at home, their lives effectively privatised. And, as the gap between the price of a pint in a pub and that of a can of lager from a supermarket has widened, leisure for many on low incomes, especially those without the social network of a workplace, means the television or video, not the more socially active entertainment involved in going out.

The decline in the health of communities has been exacerbated by the something-for-nothing, me-first society — a society in which people have been encouraged to take what they can for themselves, without contributing to the common good, and one which disowns responsibility.

This over-emphasis on rights, to the near exclusion of duties and responsibilities, has two consequences. First, our natural tendency towards selfishness has been reinforced. Take just one example, which now badly affects around one in five households: noise. Many people believe that their "right" to play loud music exceeds their duty not to disturb their neighbours. The consequences are dreadful for the victims.

Secondly, the notion of duties rights has made rights appear like consumer items on a supermarket shelf. But far from providing people with more real freedom, this puts people in the position of dependants. In turn, this has led to a feeling of powerlessness in the face of an overbearing State, which has been strongly reinforced by the Tories' transfer of power from the elected representatives of local communities to both the central State and to "quangos", and by a process which has treated us all as customers first and citizens last.

So how can we move back to mutual responsibility? Primarily, we have to ensure that everyone in society can share

in that most fundamental of community activities — work. Work is not only the means by which people sustain themselves, it is also the way they gain a stake in their community.

But we must also strengthen the institutions which bond communities together. Ending central government's capping of local authority budgets will make locally elected representatives much more responsible for the decisions they take on behalf of their neighbourhoods. Add the development of schemes for elected mayors, along American lines, and the introduction of annual elections all over the country and we could see a genuine renewal of local democracy.

There also has to be change not only in what government does, but in how it does it. Major reforms should be brought about only with the active consent of people, either by explicit endorsement of a specific manifesto commitment or by referendum.

Labour is already proposing two referendums. One, to give people the chance to choose which voting system they want for Westminster elections, and one to allow the people of each region in England to determine whether they wish to have an elected regional assembly.

Noise is a prime example of people's selfishness

The most important change, however, involves a change in attitude. We need to break out of the language of duties rights, and begin insisting upon mutual responsibility. Rights and duties go hand in hand. That is why, in return for action to deal with unemployment, to give young people a guarantee of a job or training, to tackle homelessness and to provide proper treatment facilities for drug and alcohol abusers, I have argued that the community should expect responsible behaviour from all. Respect should be a two-way street.

Labour wants British law to proclaim the rights which we enjoy as citizens. We shall incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law, to enable British citizens to uphold their rights in British courts. Then we will establish a British Bill of Rights. Its success will depend on the extent of the public's sense of "ownership", and commitment to it. What is needed is a great public debate about what rights are fundamental in our society. That debate must balance rights and duties.

Achieving this measure of cultural change will be difficult. If politicians are to ask others to accept a greater measure of responsibility, they must start by doing so themselves. This means being responsible for their public actions, as MPs or ministers, and for the probity with which they conduct those public duties — which is why the Nolan inquiry has been so important. Leadership requires example.

This article is taken from the Shadow Home Secretary's Ambassador's Lecture, delivered last night.



A place for advocates

MPs ought to represent vested interests — be paid, and declare them

As a full moon rose over Westminster on Monday night, a collective lunacy took hold of the place. Madness began in Downing Street but raced through the streets and corridors, until by 7 o'clock the banks of the Thames were lined with 600 politicians baying to the sky.

At that moment the entire Cabinet voted at John Major's bidding for a disreputable measure in which none of them believed and on which they knew they would be beaten. The measure was to allow MPs to keep secret how much money they are paid to lobby on behalf of outside interests. Parodying Melbourne's definition of loyalty, John Major pleaded that his friends support him not only when they knew he was wrong but when they knew he knew he was wrong.

His hapless aide, Tony Newton, was then sent round to the BBC to perjure himself by declaring that nobody had been whipped and the vote was "free". He did not explain why ministers sneaked through the government lobby that night wearing dark glasses and holding their noses.

Those who daily examine British politics try to make sense even of its more lurid episodes. They reveal how, at some private meeting, Tom told Dick he thought he could "swing" Harry... that the PM was up north when the whips promised ten votes from Bob... that with hindsight so-and-so's bluff might have been called... that unfortunately Lord Pooh-Bah had a dinner.

Policy thus proceeded down the Royal Road from common sense to the kingdom of fiasco. Yet this search for sanity is important. We must believe that, despite appearances, government is a rational activity conducted by sensible people. Otherwise we go mad.

Monday's sleaze vote defies such analysis. Last summer Mr Major was in a quandary over the Nolan report on parliamentary ethics. He personally supported it, as did his colleagues. When told that a handful, even a doctored, of the less reputable Tory backbenchers did not like the proposals, he shrilly because they had much to hide, he funded a confrontation and booted the proposals to another committee. The committee was minded to agree with Nolan, until the whips panicked at the size of the "disreputable" faction.

Ethics and tactics both now pointed in the same direction. Mr Major could have faced down the Disreputables and whipped through the

House as a whole would have passed them with opposition support. Or he could have had nothing to do with the matter, on the reasonable ground that the ethics of MPs are for the Commons collectively, not the Government, to determine. He would vote on the day as his conscience determined. Again the Disreputables would have been defeated. Either would have suited Mr Major.

In the event, his wisest seem to have deserted him. He encouraged the committee chairman, Mr Newton, to vote for non-disclosure in the hope that this would appease the Disreputables. Labour said it would insist on disclosure when the matter came to the Commons, safe in the knowledge that on a free vote many Tories would agree with it. Mr Major was outsmarted. He was like a bemused actor who had wandered into the wrong camp in a Shakespeare history play. The Disreputables seized him and hypnotised him. He became their willing prisoner and dragged his colleagues after him, which they will not readily forgive.

Since his leadership triumph in July, Mr Major has had the aura of some undeclared interest, some deal with person or persons unknown, some alien spirit hovering on his shoulder. Mephistopheles has taken up residence in the Downing Street attic, and whispers instructions through the walls. "Two souls, alas, dwell in my breast," Mr Major cries with Faust. He is at the mercy not so much of the Right — he at last means to face them down over divorce — as of anyone who says boo to him loudly enough. When that includes the Disreputables, there is no telling to whom the Government of the country is now accountable, or vulnerable.

We cannot look for salvation to the other side. Labour made a mockery of this free vote by hauling MPs back from their freebies, junkets and "fact-finding missions" (even from China and Australia) to ensure a full turn-

out against the Government. Anything less like a great profession deliberating on the reform of its ethical code is hard to imagine. To the Shadow Cabinet, this was a gifted opportunity to give the Tories a bloody nose. Personal conscience could go hang. For Labour MPs, conscience should display the same felicitous identity with the views of Tony Blair as the Tory conscience did with the views of Mr Major. One of the marvels of British politics is how precise is this moral convergence of MP and party.

Monday's actual decisions were mostly daft. Financial disclosure is only controversial to MPs who live in towers of the most exquisite ivory. MPs are entitled to privacy in their private incomes, but not in the private supplements they receive for work

linked to their parliamentary duties. Were a civil servant or minister found receiving similar secret payments, he would have to resign. Were a doctor to recommend a course of treatment because he was secretly in the pay of a drugs company, he too would be disciplined. Were a journalist to write an article plugging a company of which he was an undisclosed paid servant, he would be fired.

MPs have no mystical immunity from such ethical constraints. Yesterday, two of the Disreputables, Sir Michael Neuber and Michael Stern, said that they might disobey the new rules if over the ban on paid advocacy when openly disclosed. Advocacy is the essence of a parliamentarian's job. Parliament is supposed to be an assembly of the nation. It is elected on a territorial basis, but it no longer legislates or deliberates that way. Almost every substantive

argument concerns public or private corporate interests, clashing or colluding with the rights of consumers, claimants, institutions and professions. As in a court of law, such interests should be represented, and other than through the mouths of ministers.

A deliberative chamber without advocates is a game of charades. To pretend that an MP should sit in Parliament to represent only the interests of a geographical constituency and his party leadership is archaic. It concedes the dominance of government business over the vocation of politics. In centralised Britain, territorial constituencies are becoming no more relevant to government than were the pre-1832 rotten boroughs. In my view, MPs should be paid by any company, trade union, lobbyist or good cause they like. They should be allowed, indeed encouraged, to pursue the interests of groups as well as territories in the House. They should be free to earn as much as they can in the open market, and use the Commons as their forum. A forum is a marketplace, properly so called. The one absolute requirement is that every interest and remuneration should be declared.

Strip away interest and Parliament is merely a monument to political history. It becomes lobby-fodder, a band of emasculated, ill-paid, gagged-and-bound footsolders at their party's call. It is a group of silent candidates awaiting the lure of office and resigning when office has discarded them. The one thing we assume politicians are good at is political advocacy. To deny them this role, or the wherewithall to perform it, is absurd. Yet this is what the Commons has just done. The baby of advocacy has been thrown out with the bathwater of disclosure.

The Nolan debate was a chance for the Commons to tear up its professional assumptions and modernise them. For 12 years Margaret Thatcher resisted serious parliamentary reform. A radical in matters far from her office, she was deeply conservative towards her immediate environment. She also knew that an unreformed Parliament was where she shone. It posed no threat to the prerogatives of executive power in Britain. Mr Major has shown he means to keep it that way, even if occasionally Parliament turns and tweaks his nose.

Alan Coren



I'm afraid the warrant's not ready — can you come back Tuesday?

My very good friend the milkman says that I've been losing too much sleep. He doesn't like the hours I keep.

He didn't say this to me, mind, he said it to his very good friend the detective sergeant, who, of course, immediately pulled me in for questioning. He wanted to know why I was walking up and down the road clad only in a dressing gown at 6 am. I said I was looking for my very good friend the milkman because we had run out of semi-skimmed, but the DS invited me to pull this one because it had bells on, did I honestly expect him to believe it was just a coincidence that I was wandering the streets improperly clothed at that very moment when women might be getting up and dressing in front of uncurtained windows? I pointed out that I did indeed buy a bottle from the milkman, also six eggs and a sliced brown, and the DS said: "Yes, well, you would, wouldn't you, once he had clocked you, but fortunately for the community there are no flies on your milkman, he is ever on the alert to implement dairy policy regarding dodgy behaviour of customers."

Not that I need to tell you any of this, you will already have read all about it thanks to the sergeant's very good friend the tabloid hack. You have not, however, read about my tricky little contretemps at the dry cleaners, since my grey flannel suit is still undergoing forensic tests and it could be days before national attention is brought to the fact that when I went to collect it yesterday, my very good friend the dry cleaner said that his staff had reported a number of stubborn marks, and it was now company policy not to treat these before the Serious Stains Squad had had a good look, lest essential evidence be destroyed, eg, rat poison, Semtex, crack, blood, harmful additives as specified in EU directive 446/279 b, or anything else of an iffy nature. ha-ha-ha, he trusted he did not have to draw pictures, we were both men of the world.

I have to say that I was somewhat irritated at not being able to pick up my grey flannel suit, it is a long walk to the dry cleaners, and one fraught with discomfort, given that I have to pass the establishment of my very good friend the butcher, who recently dialled 999 to report that I had asked him to deliver a stuffed loin of pork. This, he told me, was the first time in he did not know how many years that he had been asked to stuff for us, he knew for a fact that my wife liked to prepare pork loin herself, and — here's a funny thing — he had not seen Mrs Coren for some days, and since it was company policy to draw attention to the possibility that a regular customer might have been buried under the rockery, he had not messaged about. Fortunately, my wife got to the door before the Flying Squad kicked it in, and was able to persuade them that she was indeed who she claimed, thanks, it must be said, to the testimony of a number of paparazzi who have been camped out in the front garden for the past few weeks waiting to see whether she will be charged with anything when she goes to collect her shoes, given that our very good friend the cobbler had let it be known that ten pairs of high-heeled borders, in his professional opinion, on the fetishistic

Club class

A YOUNG butler has been sacked from Peter de Savary's Scottish playground for millionaires, the Carnegie Club at Skibo Castle, after he and two colleagues went on a spree in the grounds.

The trio commandeered an electric golf-buggy and drove it to the club's Olympic-sized pool. They are said to have played dogdoggies with buggies on a green of the championship course. And they broke into the pool for a dip in the small hours. Security staff heard their splashes.

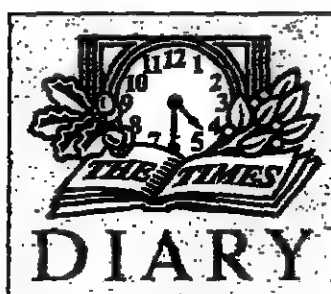
Yesterday, de Savary, the former America's Cup yachtsman who once owned both Land's End and John o'Groats, said the caper was a youthful folly. "The youngsters were drunk and behaved very foolishly. One had been let go and the other two have been seriously reprimanded. We will not tolerate such behaviour. All our staff have been reminded they must abide by the rules or face the consequences."

Annual membership of the residential sports club costs £2,000. "We are very careful with security. This is an exclusive club and guests don't expect staff to behave like that. We had to let one young man go as a warning to the others."

As Editor of The Sunday Telegraph, Charles Moore cut a dash in the classical world by encouraging his readers to learn Latin. But now he runs The Daily Telegraph his touch appears to have left him. In an editorial comment yesterday on Diego Maradona's appearance at Oxford University, the Telegraph referred to Gladstone and Curzon as "alumni" of the Union. My Latin Primer says they



"Nolan is still more entertaining"



must therefore have been female — unless Moore meant "alumni".

Colonised

THE HONG KONG Governor, Chris Patten, is being wooed by constituency associations, which are urging him to stand as their next MP. Even though he is supposedly dead to Hong Kong until mid-1997, local activists see him as a potential leader and want him to stand at the general election.

After Monday's humiliating defeat for John Major, Patten is again being seen as the great white hope. Chippenharn Conservative Association in Wiltshire, searching for a replacement for its present MP, Richard Needham, who is standing down, is said to have written to him, although the local chairman, John Mortimer, refused to com-

ment. Leading lights in the Harrogate association are also in pursuit of Patten's trim figure — and friends suggest his head could be turned by such flattering approaches.

Out of puff

AN UNATHLETIC Oxford University student has arrived in New York to run in the city's marathon after losing a wager. Heinrich Pezold, 23, admits it will be his first exercise for eight years.

Pezold, a postgraduate history student at Wolfson College, bet a friend that he would not buy him a business-class airline ticket from London to New York. "If you do, I shall run the marathon," he said. The 1993 conversation was forgotten until he opened the post last month in London. Inside was a business-class air ticket and registration documents for the New York marathon. "I shall try my best and hope to finish," said the poor Pezold yesterday of his Woodhouseian fate. "The last time I took any exercise was at my grammar school. My sports teacher threw me out of the class."

Although Pat Barker will be popping open the champagne after winning the Booker Prize for The Ghost Road, she takes a cynical



Office dogs: would you take yours to work?

cal view of such plaudits. Only last month she told a colleague: "Book prizes are a necessary evil. I know, intellectually and in my bones, that it's just three lemons in a row."

Dog's body

THE LATEST lifestyle tip from the grandes dames of chic take your dog to work. The offices of *Tatler* are overrun, and journalists claim they are the happier for it.

Stirring clashes between the social editor's cocker spaniel, Ollie, and the deputy editor's West High-

land terrier, Steptoe, are commonplace. The carpets and furnishings are furred over with doghair. And staff turned a blind eye during one editorial meeting as the Westy made diverting amorous advances towards a Pekinese.

"It's a social thing," says the magazine's Editor, Jane Proctor, who brings in her Armani-coloured cairn terrier, Kenzo. "I wouldn't dream of leaving my dog at home all day, and it reduces stress in the office. We have fascinating meetings."

P.H.S

OBITUARIES

SIR PETER STALLARD

Sir Peter Stallard, KCMG, CVO, MBE, former Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man, died on October 25 aged 80. He was born on March 6, 1915.

PETER STALLARD played a leading role in preparing Nigeria for independence as Secretary to the first Federal Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. The two men developed such a mutual respect that Balewa presented the Stallards before they left with some gold coins he had brought back with him from a pilgrimage to Mecca.

Stallard felt a great sense of personal loss on hearing the news in January 1966 that the Prime Minister had first disappeared then been found murdered in a ditch after a coup against his Government in Lagos. But by that time he had left Nigeria. One of his last responsibilities had been to help to prepare a visit by the Queen at the time of independence in 1960 (he had been appointed CVO in 1956 and was created KCMG in 1961).

Within a year the newly knighted colonial servant was on his way to take up the governorship of British Honduras (now Belize) in Central America. His arrival was hardly auspicious. Hurricane Hattie had just swept through the tiny country, leaving behind it an awe-inspiring trail of destruction.

Not even the Governor's Residence had been spared. A tidal wave had engulfed it and had not only fully subsided. The portraits of imperial monarchs and prime ministers adorning the stairs were still partly submerged while a tide mark was



visible halfway up Edward VII. It must have seemed a distant cry from the quiet country parishes in England he had known as a boy.

Although born in Norfolk, Peter Hyla Gawne Stallard was largely brought up in Devon where his father was vicar of Ottery St Mary.

He went from Bromsgrove School in Worcestershire to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, before being accepted for the colonial administrative service in Northern Nigeria. He spent a fourth year at Oxford learning Hausa before leaving for Kaduna in 1937.

Two years later his career was interrupted by the Second World War. Commissioned into the Royal West African Frontier Force, he served in Nigeria and the Gold Coast before being posted to Burma where he was appointed a military MBE in 1945 and promoted to lieutenant-colonel.

Returning to Nigeria, he was known as Colonel Stallard for a while as he climbed through the ranks of the colonial administration, moving in due course from the North to the federal capital of Lagos. He became Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Leaving Nigeria in 1961, he spent five years in British Honduras before coming back to this country in 1966. Stallard next accepted a Home Office post as Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man. It was a happy choice as his mother, a Miss Gawne before her marriage, belonged to a well-known Manx family.

The arrival of the new Lieutenant-Governor and his wife was not terribly promising, however, although not quite as dramatic as their touchdown in British Honduras. In spite of a visiting stream of VIPs, Government House at that time had few domestic staff.

Before one early luncheon party for the Queen, who was punning her progress further north with a stop in

the Isle of Man, Lady Stallard was up until the small hours scraping carrots while her husband had to double up as the wine waiter. To his horror as he filled his monarch's glass, he saw several fragments of cork in HM claret.

He need not have worried. Before he could do anything about it a royal finger unerringly targeted the flotsam, fishing it out as if coping with such an intrusion by foreign bodies was an everyday occurrence at the Palace. Meanwhile Lord Mountbatten, one of the royal party, reeled off a succession of "knock knock, who's there?" jokes.

Stallard spent seven years as Lieutenant-Governor — a post which then carried more executive functions than it does today. It included his presiding over Tynwald, the island's Parliament. In 1974 he retired to Somerset.

He took a part-time job between 1976 and 1985 as president of the Devon and Cornwall Rent Assessment Panel. But he concentrated mostly on voluntary work. He became president of the Somerset Association of Boys Clubs and chairman of the Dartmoor Steering Group and was a Knight of St John. An active committed churchman, he was also on his local parochial church council. Golf, meanwhile, provided him with his main relaxation.

A tall, slim, quiet and rather private man who kept his own counsel, Peter Stallard is survived by his wife Molly (known as "Mumbo" within her family) whom he met through her brother, a contemporary of his at Oxford, and by a son and a daughter.

PHILIP RAWSON



Philip Rawson, writer, artist and teacher, died on November 6 aged 71. He was born on January 13, 1924.

IN HIS lifetime Philip Rawson received little public recognition beyond his fellowship of the Royal College of Art and centenary medal from the Guild of Designer Craftsmen. Yet the consistent popularity of his many art books on both sides of the Atlantic underlines the influence his ideas have exerted. Even at the time of his death a new study of his on the art of sculpture was being prepared for publication by Pennsylvania University.

The son of a Middlesbrough industrialist, Philip Stanley Rawson was sent to school at Winchester College. After being invalided out of the Fleet Air Arm and a short wartime course at Oxford University, he taught himself Sanskrit in order to gain entrance to London University's School of Oriental and African Studies. His published master's thesis on *The Indian Sword* remains a standard reference work on the subject.

After an assistant curatorship at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, he became in 1960 founding curator of the Gulbenkian Museum of Oriental Art at Durham University, where he was to spend the next 15 years.

Within the oriental field as well as teaching and publishing a range of books — among them *Indian Painting* (1961), *Indian Sculpture* (1966) and *The Art of Tantra* (1978) — he organised two major exhibitions: *Music and Dance in Indian Art* for the Edinburgh International Festival of 1963, and *Tantra* at the then new Hayward Gallery, London, in 1973.

But his professional involvement with oriental art revealed only part of a rich and complex character, whose sheer range of interests tended to disconcert more conventional fellow academics. He had studied musical composition with Egon Wellesz and Karl Rankl, and opera and singing with Jani Strasser, performing as tenor with Strasser's

London Ensemble Singers in the 1940s.

Other achievements also took place beyond the strict demarcation lines of academia. During the Second World War he became a student and friend of the German sculptor and artist Kurt Badt, who had sought refuge in England. It was Badt who laid the foundations of Rawson's fine art practice. His dual personality as an artist-scholar found expression in a series of books on drawing, ceramics and design.

He was a gifted teacher, and it was natural that he should wish to create an opportunity to share his various insights with students. He began to teach in the Painting School of the Royal College of Art, at first part-time, later becoming a full-time senior tutor there (1977-80), as well as contributing to the RCA sculpture and ceramics courses. When he subsequently took up the post of Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Goldsmiths' College (1981-84), it at first seemed the ideal opportunity for him, although while in office he had to preside over a stormy period of cuts and rationalisations.

On his retirement to west Dorset in 1984 Rawson was able to devote his energies to his writing and his art. In spite of declining health, he still continued to teach on an occasional basis — equally at home whether speaking with art students at the local sixth form college, lecturing to Sotheby's fine art courses, or advising artist-pottery in the United States, where he acquired an enthusiastic new following with the US publication in 1984 of his book *Ceramics*.

In addition to his published works — 25 in total — his artistic estate includes an extensive and virtually unseen legacy of figurative and abstract drawings and sculptures spanning five decades of work, much of it intimately tied in with the investigations and aesthetic theories he formulated in his writings.

Philip Rawson is survived by his widow Barbara and one son.

ALEXANDER OGSTON

Alexander Ogston, petroleum technologist, died at Tenafly, New Jersey, on October 7 aged 90. He was born in London on April 27, 1905.

ONE of a small band of fuel specialists in Britain and the United States in the 1930s and 1940s, Alec Ogston made an important contribution to the performance of the RAF's fighters in the Battle of Britain. His role in the procurement of 100-octane petrol gave the Hurricane and Spitfire that little boost to their performance that helped to tilt the balance during a vital summer of air combat in 1940.

The son of a London silk broker, Alexander Ogston was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood. He showed an international bent when, in 1920, he went to the Lycée Condorcet in Paris, before returning to Merchant Taylors'. In 1921 he persuaded the early experimenters with wireless transmissions from the Eiffel Tower to let him

make a brief broadcast, in English, to be picked up on a crystal set at Merchant Taylors' School. It was one of the first private radio links across the Channel.

Between 1923 and 1926 he studied petroleum technology at the St John Cass Technical Institute and learnt to fly at the de Havilland flying school at Stag Lane. In 1926 he joined the Moore and George Petroleum Testing Laboratories in London, showing such aptitude that in the following year he was appointed chief chemist to the Cities Services oil company. There he worked on improved specifications for aviation and motorcar petrols and oil, research for which took him for a year to oil refineries in Oklahoma.

This led to an invitation to become technical consultant to Cleveland Petrol, a British affiliate of Royal Dutch Shell. There he developed, and introduced into Britain, Cleveland Discol, an alcohol-blended petrol that sought to offer to the humble motorcar that

"little extra something" which was to become his quest for aero-engines four years later.

As a diversion, however, in 1935 Ogston joined International Paint to initiate work on providing protection systems for fuel-storage tanks on British aircraft carriers and at RAF stations. In 1938 he was appointed technical supervisor of INTAVA (International Aviation Associates), a specialist company owned jointly by the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey (Esso) and Socony-Mobil (Mobil) of New York.

With an American colleague, W.W. "Chic" White, he launched into a drive for the higher octane fuels needed to extract the best performance from the new, British supercharged Merlin and Hercules aero-engines. In this they worked with Stanley Hooker of Rolls-Royce and Roy Fedden of Bristol.

With Ernest Bass of Shell, Ogston and White established the value of aromatics (organic compounds having an un-

saturated ring) as a component of 100-octane fuel for RAF fighters — a mixture ruled out in American aviation fuel because it dissolved the rubber seals standard in the American fuel systems. As a result of this work, in 1938 the first cargo of crude oil of high aromatic content for the RAF arrived in Britain from the Dutch East Indies in the Anglo-American Oil Company's tanker *Beaconhill*.

From this cargo INTAVA was able to supply a blend of 90 per cent iso-octane and 10 per cent heptane, together with 3.66cc per gallon of tetraethyl-lead — a "magic formula" with which Ogston had been especially concerned. This fuel became the essential "reference fuel" to which all future supplies of 100-octane had to conform.

When war broke out INTAVA became the chief supplier (Shell took 30 per cent) of 100-octane fuel to Britain. But there were initial problems of supply to Britain because the United States'



Neutrality Act forbade the export of strategic materials to the war zone. These were resolved by buying fuel for cash in US dollars and shipping it to Britain in non-American vessels — the so-called Cash and Carry solution, ahead of Lend-Lease.

Briefly commissioned in the RAF when war began, Ogston was soon released and in 1942 he was sent to the United States to co-ordinate British and American fuel specifications and requirements. With the advent of the gas turbine engine Ogston was involved in pioneering work on the preparation and production of synthetic lubricating oils which led to their universal use in the civil and military jet aircraft of today.

In 1947 he became Esso's

senior aviation technical adviser, based in New York. As such he visited more than 60 airlines and military establishments in 80 different countries, to advise on fuel requirements and airport fuel installations. In 1957 he became a founder member of the Fuel Advisory Panel of IATA — the International Air Transport Association.

After his retirement from Esso (the successor company to Esso for aviation fuels) in 1970, Ogston remained in America as an independent aviation and marine petroleum consultant, also studying the handling of oil tankers. He was, too, involved in the introduction of ship simulators for training tanker masters, in parallel with such training for airline pilots.

In New York, Ogston was for many years a member of the board of governors of the Wings Club. He was the chairman of its historical and education committee and presided over the selection of speakers for its annual *Sighr* lectures.

He had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1944 and in 1990 was honoured by the Society of Automotive Engineers by being elected a fellow at an international congress in Detroit — a rare distinction.

Ogston married Morag Mackenzie in 1960 and is survived by her and by two stepchildren.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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ARKLE HERO OF THRILLING SANDOWN PARK OCCASION
From Our Racing Correspondent
Arkle has the world of steeplechasing at his feet. Anyone who had ever queried his supremacy must have cast his doubts to the wind at Sandown Park on Saturday when Anne Duchess of Westminster's peerless eight-year-old gave a breathtaking performance to win the Gallaher Gold Cup.

ON THIS DAY

ON THIS DAY
November 8, 1965
In describing the career of the famous horse Red Rum, who died recently, some writers recalled the successes of Arkle, an earlier champion steeplechaser.

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Last cry of freedom

FOR A journalist whose mind is usually elsewhere, coming to Hong Kong is like turning up at a strange house on the eve of a party. Masses of others are arriving, in high excitement.

"This is a hot story," says Jonathan Mirsky, *The Times*'s Hong Kong correspondent, explaining the influx of media heavyweights. On the world press agenda, Hong Kong has had an upgrade. A place that used to be covered by stringers (freelancers who pay their own rent) or by roving Far East specialists is now acquiring full-time bureau chiefs.

The New York Times, *The Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times* and ABC Television are among those strengthening their Hong Kong base in order to cover the handover — the *unschloss*, Mirsky calls it — of the British colony to the People's Republic of China at midnight on July 1, 1997.

But will the media stars stay on after the fireworks? They ought to. Because the real story will begin then. What is about to happen is unprecedented — a British colony becoming, not independent, but part of another sovereign state, one which happens to be totalitarian.

It is easy to find people in Hong Kong full of optimism that nothing much will change after the big day, that the skyscraper city will continue to gleam, trade and prosper as before. But none of them are journalists. For them the only question is: when and how will the inevitable clampdown on the press begin?

Already, perhaps. Local news organisations in Hong Kong are in a high state of jitters over two recent events. The China-appointed working committee preparing the ground for Hong Kong's future administration has proposed scrapping sections of Hong Kong's new Bill of Rights. In their place it would reinstate six laws on security and censorship left over from colonial days, including the right to censor radio and television.

Then, last week, China

Journalists in Hong Kong are not optimistic about their future

said it had no intention of complying with the United Nations' request that after 1997 it file human rights reports on Hong Kong.

"We told you so," the Hong Kong Journalists' Association would be justified in saying. In June the association, 75 per cent of whose members are Hong Kong Chinese, issued a gloomy warning jointly with Article



BRENDA MADDOX

19, the London-based international anti-censorship organisation, that press freedom is under grave threat in Hong Kong.

The Chinese Government, it said, is already infiltrating the local press, controlling the release of official information, favouring sympathetic journalists over those seen as "pro-British" or "pro-Taiwan", withholding advertising from publications deemed hostile and getting publishers to persuade their editors to see that stories are slanted in China's favour.

It also adds up to "an increasingly pervasive culture of self-censorship", the report said. Its examples included the failure of Hong Kong television stations to show two BBC documentaries which offended China, the dropping of a satirical television chat show and also of a politically sassy cartoon

strip in the *South China Morning Post*.

I myself heard examples of local journalists scrambling to find a pro-China angle which would elevate their stories to the front page. I also heard of a press conference at which a pro-China official announced that she would take only one question in English; the rest would have to be in Chinese.

These developments are very bad news for local journalists.

Those heroically outspoken now will suffer. "Oh, they'll not be shot or put in jail," I was told by an American observer, "but they'll be stifled. They've no future."

Foreign journalists may not find their lives unchanged either. They know, from their counterparts in Peking, how different the practice of the reporter's craft is in a cold climate. In Peking foreign journalists must be accredited, must live in designated places, and seek permission to interview, to travel out of the city, to film even an ordinary street scene. Their stories are kept on record. Ordinary people are shy of talking to them.

One of those who refuses to be pessimistic is Ted MacFarland, president of Turner International, which distributes Cable News Network International. "They shut us down in Beijing," he says, referring to the Tiananmen Square killings in 1989. "But they didn't kick us out. If they shut us down here, the world will know."

But will the world care, once the hot story cools and Hong Kong is just another bustling Chinese city, with somewhat better architecture? I wouldn't count on it.

THE BLAME for the leak of the Julia Somerville story should fall on whoever decided that this nationally recognisable newscaster should be interviewed at a police station. A teller face is a marketable commodity. Surely the police know that. The way to protect the child in question was to interview Miss Somerville at home.

Alexandra Frean meets the Radio 1 chief whose audience is increasing after two rocky years

Simply music to his ears

Matthew Bannister, Controller of Radio 1, is fond of stating that bands such as Blur, Oasis, and the Boo Radleys would not have broken into the mainstream pop charts had it not been for the patronage of his station. It could equally be argued that Mr Bannister himself might not have survived in his job, were it not for the success of these acts.

After two years of plummeting audiences, Radio 1's listening figures now seem to be stabilising. So far this year the station's weekly audience has risen by nearly one million, to reach around 13 million. The revival in its fortunes have coincided with an extraordinary musical renaissance, symbolised by the graduation of the white, guitar-based acts, collectively known as Britpop bands, from the sidelines of the music industry on to the mainstream pop stage.

"We have really been the catalyst for the explosion of Britpop," Mr Bannister says. "We have been playing Oasis and Blur since long before the media heard about them. What started out as left-field acts on Radio 1 two years ago are now mainstream."



Matthew Bannister took Radio 1 to the cutting edge, and kept his cool even when five million listeners switched off

Through integrating this music into our mainstream output we are bringing emerging talent to really large audiences, and that is having an effect on popular taste. We have been a catalyst in changing the way people think about new British music. We are performing a serious public service of cultural patronage as powerful as Radio 3 carries out with classical music."

The reasons for Mr Bannister's decision to turn Radio 1 from an unchallenging chart-based station into a cultural crusader have been well rehearsed. He joined the station exactly two years ago with a mission to reinstate its public service ethos and make it so distinctive from the commercial sector that the Government would have no grounds for privatising it.

The station's older generation of "Smashy and Nicey" DJs were replaced with young

presenters, and its diet of middle-of-the-road, well established artists were usurped by new and emerging acts. Chris Evans, former presenter of Channel 4's *The Big Breakfast* and *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush*, was hired to present the station's flagship breakfast show, in a brilliant publicity coup which also drew public attention to the changes at the network as a whole.

Although the changes initially lost the station 5.2 million listeners, Mr Bannister believes there was and is no alternative. With the number of commercial radio stations expected to double to 390 by 2000, Radio 1 justifies its continued public funding (more than £32 million a year) only by being "genuinely and demonstrably different from commercial radio", he says.

Liz Forgan, managing direc-

tor of BBC Radio, endorsed that view earlier this week when she predicted that the Beeb's radio audience share would drop from 47.8 to 30 per cent within a decade owing to increased competition from the commercial sector.

Reflecting the view of an independent record label, Martin Mills, chairman of Beggars Banquet, believes that Mr Bannister's commitment to promoting new talent has been of enormous benefit to the music industry. Previously unknown acts, such as Prodigy, got their first airplay on Radio 1, he says.

The music industry does have some reservations about Radio 1, however. Jeremy Marsh, president of the UK music division of the record giant BMG, believes that

Radio 1 has gone too far. It is now focusing too narrowly on the three to seven million, music-literate, record-buying 15 to 25-year-olds. As a result it is ignoring the wider body of consumers who don't ordinarily buy records — including many of the 300,000 people who last week bought the new single from Robson and Jerome (stars of ITV's *Soldier, Soldier* series), *I Believe*, which went straight into the charts at number one to become the fastest-selling single of the Nineties.

"You need some records that don't challenge people musically. You cannot do everything at the cutting edge of cool, there needs to be a balance," Mr Marsh says. "Most people are normal. They wear Marks & Spencer clothes; they are not over-fashionable and they want simplicity. They want to hear

artists such as Annie Lennox and Whitney Houston as well as new bands."

Paul Burger, chairman and chief executive of Sony Music UK, says that Radio 1 risks becoming too formulaic. "Mature" artists or bands that do not fit Radio 1's cutting edge image are being ignored by the station even when they come up with records that would fit its format, he says.

Mr Burger adds: "My advice to Matthew Bannister would be, judge songs on their merits, without stereotyping the artist. Radio 1 professes to be the station that is into music. Well, listen to the music."

Mr Bannister is unbowed. Far from veering back towards the mainstream, he is planning to increase Radio 1's specialist music output, with shows devoted to reggae, reggae and bhangra.

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PROPERTY 30

A miller's tale: My nightmare became a labour of love



ARTS 36-38

Zoe Caldwell brings Callas to life on Broadway



SPORT 43-48

Wasim pledges to redeem Pakistan's cricket

TELEVISION AND RADIO GUIDE
Pages 46,47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8 1995

Lang clears Lyonnaise bid for Northumbrian

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

WATER company shares surged on the stock market after Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, permitted a proposed takeover of Northumbrian Water by Lyonnaise des Eaux.

Investors suggested the terms were lax enough to encourage bids for other water companies. The Labour Party said they put shareholders before customers.

Northumbrian itself gained 60p, or 6.5 per cent, to £10.74. Analysts now expect a higher bid to emerge from talks that Northumbrian's board has agreed to hold with Lyonnaise early next week. Several other potential bid candidates rose in sympathy: Yorkshire by 20p, Thames by 20p and Anglian by 12p.

Under the agreement negotiated by Ian Byatt, Director General of Water Services, Lyonnaise's North East Water and Northumbrian combined would have to cut drinking water prices by 15 per cent over six years, relative to price limits set last year. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission said on Mr Byatt's advice, that the merger should not go ahead without savings of "at least 15-20 per cent" by the end of the century.

Sewerage charges, which account for more than half of most household bills, will not be affected. Water price cuts will also come late in the period. They would hardly fall in the first two years and by only around 10 per cent after four. For the first two years, bills in the North East would be less than £1 a year lower than under existing limits.

These cuts are not believed to be significantly more than Northumbrian would have offered its customers on its own. The company cut operating costs by 6.7 per cent last year and is expected tomorrow to unveil further cuts beyond



David Cranston, chief executive, left, with Sir Frederick Holliday, the chairman, said the price cuts were modest

those required by Ofwat. Northumbrian planned to share these cuts between customers and shareholders.

Lyonnaise also agreed to seek a quote for its British water interests within ten years. These include Essex and Suffolk Water. Lyonnaise must also not seek to control any other water companies.

David Cranston, Northumbrian chief executive, expressed surprise that the French water and construction

group had negotiated such modest price cuts. He said: "The quality of their negotiating skill is clearly very high."

Margaret Beckett, Shadow Trade Secretary, called the price cuts feeble. She said: "As we have seen in the electricity industry, the Government is content to stand by and watch the piecemeal restructuring of the water industry without paying any attention to the interests of customers or to the interests of the regions involved and in default of their own stated policy."

But Ofwat argued that the agreement was realistic. Mr Byatt said it would ensure that customers benefited from a merger. He does not expect the deal to result in a spate of takeovers like those for regional electricity companies.

Lyonnaise said the price cuts were the biggest yet required for a water merger and were severe.

Sir Frederick Holliday, Pennington, page 27

Northumbrian's chairman, who has emphasised the company's special role in the North East region, said the water group was still confident of its prospects as an independent company. After Mr Lang's ruling, however, Northumbrian is thought more likely to try to achieve the highest possible price for shareholders, than to seek to remain independent.

MPs voice doubts on supervisory role of Bank

BY PATRICIA TEHAN AND ROBERT MILLER

CONSIDERABLE doubts have been raised about the effectiveness of the Bank of England in supervising UK banks after the collapse of Barings earlier this year.

A cross-party committee of MPs has called on the Treasury to review the role of the Bank as prudential supervisor of banking institutions and wants sufficient funds provided to enable the Bank to get banking supervision right.

After a 22-month investigation into the regulation of financial services in the UK, the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee report published yesterday made some damning criticisms of the Bank's role in the collapse of Barings. The Board of Banking Supervision's report into the Barings failure, it said, had raised doubts about its effectiveness. The MPs said: "We are dismayed that the Governor can, on the one hand, claim that London is one of the best-regulated and supervised markets in the world and, on the other, have to concede that his supervisory staff actually have little real understanding of what his charges are up to."

A spokesman for the Bank said it did not agree to Eddie George, the Governor, "had conceded that".

But MPs were divided over how far the changes should go. Mike O'Brien, Labour MP for Warwickshire North, was the only MP not to sign up to the report. He believed "statutory regulation is the only way to police the financial services industry. In particular, he said: "The Bank of England has to substantially improve its performance or accept that under a Labour government it is likely that we would look at a new Banking Commission. This would be

more effective and independent than the present Bank structure, which appears to be an old boys' network with far too cosy a relationship with those it is supposed to regulate. What we want is a more hands-on but arms-length relationship between the Bank and its charges."

Sir Tom Arnold, the chairman, said the committee was not yet going so far as to call for a separation of the Bank's supervisory and monetary authority roles. He said the committee had called for a House of Commons debate on the circumstances of the Barings collapse, which if agreed would also discuss banking supervision.

The firmest recommendation of the report was that lending should be covered by the Financial Services Act. Sir Tom added that MPs also wanted to see "a single authority ultimately capable of knocking heads together and enforcing co-operation between regulators" and recommended that ministerial responsibilities under the Act be transferred to the Treasury.



Arnold: one authority plea

BUSINESS TODAY

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Federal Funds	5 1/2%	(5 1/2%)
Long Bond	107 1/2%	(107 1/2%)
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3-month bill	6 1/2%	(6 1/2%)
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Switzerland	1.7988	(1.7994)
Yen	162.46	(162.44)
S index	92.2	(92.3)

DOLLAR

London	1.4170	(1.4139)
Frankfurt	4.8890	(4.8918)
Paris	1.1383	(1.1375)
Yen	103.19	(103.35)
S index	92.2	(92.3)

Tokyo close Yen 103.05

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$16.35	(\$16.25)
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BOLD

London close	\$384.45	(\$382.25)
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* denotes midday trading price

Just the job

WH Smith, the high street retail chain, is to draw local shop staff only from JobCentres under a new agreement with the Government announced yesterday. Service personnel are to be recruited in a similar way for the Ministry of Defence. In a third deal, Reed, the employment agency, announces today it is halving its placement fees for long-term unemployed. Page 26

Liquidity

Anglian Water has promised to spend an extra £15 million on environmental and drought measures. Page 31

M&S gives warning on autumn sales despite profits rise

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

MARKS & SPENCER issued a cautionary note on autumn sales, as it unveiled half-year profits up 9 per cent to £365 million yesterday.

Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman, said that clothing sales in August, September and October were down on last year's level, although figures had improved in recent weeks after the arrival of the cold weather.

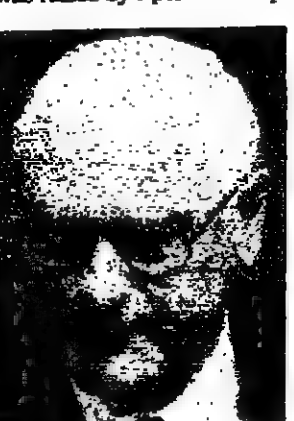
The half-year figures were boosted by an impressive contribution from M&S's financial services arm, where profits rose 45 per cent to £26 million, and internationally, where turnover increased 20 per cent to £182 million.

Food sales increased 5.9 per cent to £1.15 billion, while total turnover increased 5.7 per cent to £3.2 billion. But M&S's performance in areas of traditional strength, such as knitwear and underwear, was less impressive. Clothing sales rose just 2.7 per cent on the same period last year.

The company faces continuing problems with Brooks Brothers, its American subsidiary, which made a loss of £2.5

million down from a profit of £700,000 last year. Canadian operations also struggled, posting a £3.1 million loss, an increase of £1.2 million on 1994.

The City gave the results a lukewarm reaction, shares rising 4p to close at 411p. Analysts expressed concern that the sales outlook was sluggish and that an increase in income from interest payments to £25 million had put a gloss on the figures. The interim dividend was raised by 7 per cent to 3p.



Greenbury: cautious note

Inchcape job for BA chief

SIR Colin Marshall is to become the non-executive chairman of Inchcape, after announcing last week he was stepping down as executive chairman of British Airways (Marianne Curphey writes).

He joined Inchcape's board yesterday as non-executive director and will take up the part-time chairmanship from January 1 when the current chairman, Sir David Plastow, retires. The post, which will occupy him for up to two days a week, carries a salary of £200,000 with no options or bonuses attached.

Sir Colin, who will be 62 this month, is initially on a two-year fixed contract but is expected to stay with the company for five years.

Charles Mackay, 55, Inchcape's chief executive and deputy chairman and a non-executive director of BA since 1993, said he would be leaving the BA board when his contract expires next June "to avoid a conflict of interest".

Pennington, page 27.

Confidence is at three-year low, says IoD survey

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS confidence is at a three-year low, with political uncertainty the single largest factor pushing it down — according to evidence today from the Institute of Directors.

The IoD said that the gloomy findings of its latest survey of business opinion suggested that the Government now has less room in the Budget for tax cuts and that, if there were further signs of weakening in the economy, interest rates should be cut.

The IoD's latest bi-monthly business opinion survey confirms a slowdown in the economy, after weak manufacturing figures earlier this week and gloomy results from the Confederation of British Industry's quarterly study.

The balance of those more optimistic against those less optimistic about the UK economy is, for the first time since Britain's exit from the European exchange-rate mechanism in September 1992, now negative — falling rather than just falling back. Although the proportion of directors more optimistic about the economy in October stayed at its August

level of 28 per cent, the proportion less confident grew to 30 per cent, giving a negative balance of -2 per cent.

Political uncertainty is seen as the principal factor diminishing confidence, the IoD says, with 34 per cent of directors surveyed citing it as the main problem, followed by a third mentioning the level of economic growth in the UK.

The fall in confidence comes against a background of weakening output intentions, business volumes and profits. The proportion of directors reporting increased business fell from 68 per cent to 62, while the number recording rising profits fell by ten percentage points to 52 per cent.

Forty-four per cent of directors say they plan to increase output in the next three months — against 50 per cent in August and 56 per cent in June.

Ruth Lea, IoD policy head, says: "The Chancellor should make bold spending cuts to finance the tax cuts business needs, and if there are further signs of weakening in the economy, he should not hesitate to cut interest rates."

Port in the soup over split lentil dispute

BY COLIN NARBURGH

A FAMILY-OWNED London food importer will challenge in the High Court today the Port of Felixstowe's right to restrain £100,000 worth of the importer's cargo of split lentils to offset debts incurred by a failed shipper.

Legal advisers to a Poortman, a company with an annual turnover of £12 million, consider that Felixstowe, part of the corporate empire of Li Ka-shing, the Hong Kong billionaire, is

being wholly unfair in seeking to exercise lien over a cargo that the importer had paid for and whose freight charges were also paid.

The dispute began in mid-September, when Euronave, a shipping company based in the Belgian port of Antwerp, went into liquidation. One of the company's vessels, the MV Eurotrader, carried Poortman's 50 tonnes of lentils from Turkey to Felixstowe in 24 containers.

The restraint of the cargo by the

operator of Britain's biggest container port is a serious financial problem for Poortman, which considers that the firm has a legal and moral right to goods for which it had paid in full.

But Peter Bennett, deputy managing director of Felixstowe, said that his company was simply exercising its legal rights under the terms and conditions of the port, which were familiar to all those who used it.

Under these the port claims the right to offset the value of the goods

restrained against debts, running into tens of thousands of pounds, incurred by Euronave. Mr Bennett said that his company had acted carefully on legal advice throughout and that there was no precedent for the right to exercise lien being upheld in court. The port last took such action in 1985 against United States Lines.

Poortman will today ask the Commercial Court to order the delivery of its lentils by Felixstowe and seek damages for wrongful interference.

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WH Smith makes JobCentre deal on recruitment

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

WH SMITH, the retail chain, is to draw local shop staff only from JobCentres, under a new agreement with the Government announced yesterday.

Service personnel are to be recruited in a similar way for the Ministry of Defence, while in a third deal, Reed, the employment agency, will announce today that it is halving job-placement fees for the long-term unemployed.

Ministers were pleased with the deal on nationwide recruitment — one of the first of its kind — reached with WH Smith.

Under the agreement, local branch managers will recruit staff from JobCentres run by the Government's Employment Service (ES).

The Ministry of Defence has agreed a similar deal. Previously, recruitment to the Services was often carried out

through dedicated local recruitment centres. However, the MoD has now agreed that "first-line recruitment" of about 17,000 people a year will be carried out by the ES as a first sift before potential recruits are then passed on to the ministry.

WH Smith yesterday welcomed the Government's new service guarantee to employers about JobCentre performance. The guarantee, which was drawn up with the Confederation of British Industry, pledges prompt services in ways that Eric Forth, Education and Employment Minister, said would help them to fill their vacancies efficiently, effectively and free of charge.

Launching the new service standards, Mike Fogden, ES chief executive, said that the Government was proud of the job services it offered to em-

ployers. John Gidland, the CBI's human resources policy director, said that he hoped the new guarantee would encourage more employers to use JobCentres and help to play their part in tackling long-term unemployment.

Announcing its move, Reed said that it would halve the fees paid by client employers to the agency when they permanently recruited people who had been involuntarily registered as unemployed for 26 weeks or more.

□ John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, speaking at the University of Wales, in Aberystwyth, said last night that unemployment and insecurity at work had arisen as a "direct outcome" of government policy decisions and not as a result of "immutable economic laws" or changes in the world economy.



Clearer future: Don Greaves, the chief executive of GB Glass, the glass lighting component to tableware group. The company plans to invest £27.4 million at factories in Harworth, Nottinghamshire, and Chesterfield, Derbyshire

BP is being paid for unwanted gas

By Carl Mortished

BRITISH PETROLEUM is rolling up cash payments of \$10 million a quarter from British Gas relating to gas that the utility is not taking under agreements with BP.

The oil company is contracted to supply some 580 million cubic feet a day to British Gas under take-or-pay contracts at an average price of 16p a therm. Ofgas, the gas regulator, recently gave warning that the utility was in danger because of the fall in the gas price and its exposure to take-or-pay contracts. BG has indicated that it wants to renegotiate the contracts.

BP yesterday said that it considered the contracts reasonable, but indicated that it would be prepared to discuss the problem. "They are our biggest customer," John Browne, BP chief executive, said. Under accounting rules, BP cannot book profits on payments for gas not delivered.

The oil company has so far not yet received any request for talks and BG is thought to be waiting to see whether winter weather may reduce

Britain's gas glut. Mr Browne said that the "swing" in BP's gas production between the hottest day of the summer and the cold weather this week amounted to 500 million cubic feet a day.

BP's third-quarter profits were up 28 per cent, to £532 million, but the company gave warning of a temporary downturn in chemicals and continuing low refining margins. Profits from chemicals slipped from £258 million in the second quarter to £225 million. But BP insisted that underlying demand was strong and blamed a rapid rise in stocks earlier in the year by intermediate chemical manufacturers who feared price inflation.

The third-quarter figures came before a £244 million charge for the sale of the Marcus Hook refinery. Mr Browne said that this was the first step in putting BP refineries in a more competitive position.

The third-quarter dividend is maintained at 4p.

Tempos, page 28

National Power bid optimism

By Christine Buckley

NATIONAL POWER, the UK's largest power generator, yesterday said it was optimistic that its bid for Southern Electric would win regulatory approval. With a judgment from the Office of Fair Trading expected soon after November 20, Keith Henry, NP's chief executive, said: "We can see no reason on the ground of competition that we should be refused."

In spite of the Department of Trade and Industry's recent sanctioning of North West Water's bid for Norweb, against OFT advice, there is still a chance NP's bid will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Labour repeated its call that the whole of the electricity industry should be referred to the MMC.

NP yesterday reported that its market share had declined two percentage points to 30 per cent. Pre-tax profits improved 5 per cent to £254 million. The interim dividend was 24 pence up at 5.4p.

Tempos, page 28

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Britain blocks sale of Irish steel plant

BRITAIN has blocked the sale of the Republic of Ireland's only steel plant, insisting the deal, which involves an injection of about £28 million in state aid, would create unfair competition for UK steelmakers and threaten British jobs. A bid to settle the dispute was abandoned after five hours of talks in Brussels involving Tim Eggar, the Industry Minister, Richard Bruton, his Irish counterpart, and the EU Commission. The sale of Cork-based Irish Steel to Ispat International, the Indian group, requires the approval of all 15 EU governments because of the state aid.

The Commission has already given the go-ahead, but Mr Eggar said after the talks: "We cannot agree anything which imperils British jobs and the economic viability of British companies." Irish Steel, which employs 300 workers in Co Cork, has been ailing for years, kept afloat by a series of Irish Government cash lifelines. Its most direct competitor is the British Steel plant in Shelton, near Stoke-on-Trent. Irish Steel could face liquidation because of EU Commission demands for the repayment of loans of £10 million made to it by the Irish Government in 1993.

Limit's profit rises

THE London Insurance Market Investment Trust (Limit), largest of the 21 corporate investors at Lloyd's, has reported pre-tax profit up to just over £6 million (£4.97 million) in the half year to September 30. The return is purely from UK equities: under Lloyd's rules, underwriting profit is not included in accounts for three years. The shares showed little movement, ending at 102.5p. Earnings per share were 1.70p and the net asset value at September 30 was 105.7p a share. A net interim dividend of 1.1p (1.1p) is due on January 26.

New stores lift WEW

WEW GROUP said that opening new outlets had helped the What Everyone Wants discount stores chain to a 25 per cent advance in pre-tax profits, to £4.06 million, in the 53 weeks to August 5. Turnover rose by 11 per cent, to £122 million. However, like-for-like sales fell by 9.4 per cent after a 16 per cent downturn in the final quarter. The final dividend is maintained at 0.35p, giving an unchanged total of 0.7p for the year, from headline earnings of 1.69p (1.63p) a share. Three stores have opened since the year end, making 82.

Norweb directors to go

NORTH WEST WATER yesterday confirmed that Ken Harvey, chairman and chief executive of Norweb, would leave after the takeover of the regional electricity company by its water utility neighbour. The water company also said that Brian Wilson, Norweb's finance director, was to go. Mr Harvey is thought to be in line for a package worth up to £2 million from benefits of the takeover and compensation for his contract which was on a rolling two-year basis. Mr Wilson is likely to receive a smaller sum of about £450,000.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.20	2.03
Austria Sch	15.73	15.28
Belgium Fr	48.96	44.65
Canada \$	2.943	2.083
Cyprus Cyp	0.762	0.622
Denmark Kr	8.27	8.47
Finland Mka	7.29	8.64
France Fr	8.15	7.50
Germany Dm	2.36	2.18
Greece Dr	354.00	359.00
Hong Kong Hk	10.84	11.84
Ireland P	1.08	0.86
Israel Sh	5.1700	4.5200
Italy Lira	2015.00	8460.00
Japan Yen	177.00	161.00
Malta	0.486	0.540
Netherlands Gld	2.656	2.428
New Zealand \$	2.55	2.35
Norway Kr	10.40	9.08
Portugal Esc	204.00	227.50
S Africa R	16	15.1
Spain Pta	166.00	166.50
Sweden Kr	11.50	10.40
Switzerland Fr	1.34	1.70
Turkey Lira	166	77885.0
USA \$	1.576	1.540

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading previously.

Century Inns plans further try at listing

CENTURY INNS, the north-east pub operator that abandoned plans to float in February, is to make a fresh attempt to list its shares on the London stock market now that conditions are perceived as "more favourable" (Philip Pangalos writes).

Century, which was formed in November 1991 after a management team bought 185 pubs from Bass, intends to float in mid-December through an offer that is likely to capitalise it at about £55 million. Century hopes to raise about £30 million of new money to greatly reduce debt. N M Rothschild is sponsor to the float; UBS is the broker.

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□ Carlsberg-Tetley on the counter □ Northumbrian poised for a bid □ ACT changes do have repercussions

Short measure from beer barons

□ TRICKY things, percentages, especially in brewing. In ordinary times, when all are keen to boast how much beer they are peddling, a total of the various market shares claimed across the industry can easily reach 130 per cent. But when the beer barons are up against the competition authorities and want to reduce the size of their empires, two and two often barely scrapes to three and a half.

Whoever eventually bids for the misbegotten Carlsberg-Tetley venture, therefore, would rather like to borrow the calculator that Brian Stewart at Scottish & Newcastle used when he put together his business and Courage earlier this year. Then, a combined market share of 33 per cent mysteriously shrank to a smidgeon below the 25 per cent that normally triggers a competition reference.

Carlsberg-Tetley enjoys 17 per cent of the British beer market, according to Allied Domecq, the drinks and pubs group that owns half of it but would really rather be selling Ballantine's scotch these days. There was some squirming yesterday when Allied was quizzed on a leak that it had appointed Goldman Sachs to handle the sale, because the party line is that the business is not up for grabs.

It has certainly been luxuriously buffed up for a sale.

Yesterday's preliminaries from Allied contained £90 million of those catch-all exceptionals that are becoming something of a habit from the big drinks groups. They are meant to cover life's little crises like redundancies and the purchase of overseas drinks distribution chains that some might think are part and parcel of normal trading, but there you are, the accountants allow it, so one-offs they are.

In Allied's case, full £60 million of these went on Carlsberg-Tetley, a lot to spend on a business that managed trading profits of only £47 million last year. Only two things stand in the way of the sale. One is the Danish partner Carlsberg, which has the right of veto.

The second problem is that Tetley's figures, ghastly as they are, are propped up by a soft supply agreement, stretching in one form or another to 1999, that guarantees prices and means Allied's own pubs are subsidising the brewer. Any buyer would be pledged to continue with it, the terms of sale reflecting this. The City would prefer Allied to unwind the deal, take a lower

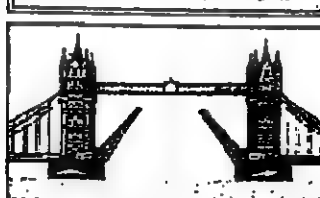
price for Tetley, and safeguard future profits from pubs.

Those most in need of Scottish arithmetical alchemy are Bass, percentage of the market with Tetley well into uncharted territory in the low 40s, and Whitbread, rising to 30 per cent. Whitbread must be counted the favourite, not least because it would face fewer competition problems. Peter Jarvis, the chief executive, has been enjoying a high profile of late, which generally means something is planned. A deal early next year would restore some of the corporate pride lost when Courage slipped through his hands.

Ian Byatt's French leave

□ The French have driven *une voiture à deux chevaux* straight into the water industry, with more than a little help from the regulator. In July, a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report suggested, as dowry for the hand of Northumbrian, a reduction in the area's water prices of 15 to 20 per cent over a four-year period.

PENNINGTON



This was based on provisional figures offered up by Ian Byatt, the water regulator, and the best bet was that this was what the French would be required to achieve. The same man then went away to renegotiate terms for the proposed merger based on a cut of just 15 per cent, the bottom end of the target range, and gave Lyonnaise des Eaux an extra two years to achieve them, to boot. Furthermore, those cuts are heavily back-end loaded, in that the reduction in early years is insignificant.

The main results of more than three months of horse trading are that Lyonnaise des Eaux should make a formal bid within days and has rather more financial firepower for one than had

been thought, and that Mr Byatt has provided a template for other bids from French water companies that have outposts within the territory of any of the other nine big quoted water companies in England and Wales.

First the haggling. On the earlier terms, the market had been looking for an agreed price of £11.25p and a hostile offer starting at perhaps £10.50. Those sums are clearly out of date, and analysts, not always the most reliable of forecasters being driven by self-interest, are dreaming of an eventual take-out at £12. Whether this will prove too rich for the French, who must achieve cost savings building up to a total of £20 million a year, remains to be seen.

Now the other bids. Compagnie Générale des Eaux has small colonies in the Thames Water area, while Bouygues is camped out on Southern Water land. Not affected but inclined to take vague encouragement is Hanson, which could do a North West Water/Norweb in reverse on Anglian through its ownership of Eastern Group. The free-for-all in water will not be as

frenetic as in electricity, mainly because of rather tighter price regulation, but it will be enriching for some all the same.

No such thing as a painless cut

□ THE latest Budget rumour has it that the Chancellor is contemplating raising a useful £1 billion or more by slicing five percentage points off the rate of Advanced Corporation Tax (ACT). Although the move would almost fund a one-point cut in the basic tax rate, it would not be the victimless revenue raiser of Kenneth Clarke's daydreams.

The losers would include ten million members of pension schemes, as lower ACT means lower investment returns for pension funds. There would also be an impact on the stock market, as funds moved out of equities into gilts to protect their income. According to Legal & General, the fall in the index would be at least 6 per cent.

Employers would be under pressure to contribute more to schemes to cover the lower

returns. Investors who are higher rate taxpayers would pay extra tax on their dividends.

When a company declares a dividend, it pays ACT to the Treasury. Non-taxpayers, like pension funds, charities and 15 million or so ordinary people, are entitled to reclaim this tax. Under the present rules, if a company pays a gross dividend of £100, £30 of this goes to the Inland Revenue. The pension fund then recovers this tax credit. But if ACT falls to 15 per cent, the tax back shrinks to £15.

Some say that ACT's hideous complexity would hide the potential impact of a decrease, a view supported by the muted and delayed reaction to the last five-point cut in 1993. A more spirited defence from the pension fund industry can be expected if he tries it again.

Board game

□ ONE OF those elegant daisy chains that connect non-executives up and down British industry has unravelled. Sir Colin Marshall is going from British Airways to Inchcape, and the latter's chief executive is leaving the BA board. Charles Mackay denies any conflict of interest, but shareholders could suspect mutual back-scratching which may cause a problem at either company's annual meeting.

Results lift BSKYB shares

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BSKYB yesterday regained some of the share value lost when the Church of England and Methodist Church offloaded their interests in the satellite broadcaster in protest over its launch of the Playboy channel.

The price bounced 16p to 386p after third-quarter trading showed that revenue had jumped 37 per cent to £214 million, fuelled by rises in subscription sales and advertising growth.

Operating costs also advanced sharply with the broadcaster spending more on the coverage of large sporting events, such as the Ryder Cup and world title boxing matches. BSKYB, which is currently in negotiations with the Football Association over its future tie-ups with the Premiership, saw operating costs increase 37 per cent to £148 million for the three months to September 30.

Profit before tax showed a rise of 108 per cent to £51 million over the period. The company continued to be upbeat about prospects, saying that satellite dish sales for October had run ahead of last year's figure and that customers taking all of the 28 channels now available were increasing.

By PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY Asset Management yesterday said that six months of uncertainty surrounding the ownership of SG Warburg, its former parent, had kept new clients away, but existing clients and staff had been supportive.

SG Warburg was finally bought by Swiss Bank Corporation in the summer and MAM was given its independence. The fund manager reported an 11.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £63.6 million for the first half year to September 30.

The figures were affected by a £35 million credit from Warburg as part of a scheme of arrangement, balanced by the £35 million exceptional costs of the scheme and provisions for expenses related to the transition to full independence.

Hugh Stevenson, MAM's chairman, said that he was, in the circumstances, "quite pleased with the figures".

Funds under management increased to £70.9 billion, from £63.5 billion, at March 31. The increase was mostly due to higher market values. The figure includes net new business of £800 million.

Turnover dipped from £129 million to £128.5 million because of a weak retail market and lower revenue from trans-



Hugh Stevenson is keeping quiet on whether suitors have contacted MAM, and says that it is "open-minded"

action charges. Mr Stevenson said. Operating costs, without exceptionals, were down from £82.2 million to £81.9 million.

Mr Stevenson said that future growth would continue to come from the UK institutional market and added that

pension fund assets overseas had increased.

The chairman refused to say whether MAM had received approaches from potential bidders, but described it as "open-minded about things which will create greater value for our

shareholders". He said: "The ideal thing for me will be to maintain the earnings growth we have achieved since the company was floated."

There was potential for significant business on the Continent and in Japan, he said.

MAM is to buy, for £11.5 million, the remaining 50 per cent of Potter Warburg Asset Management, in Australia. The firm has £1.4 billion under management.

Tempos, page 28

Chairman admits months of uncertainty kept new clients away

Growth hope for MAM

Brewing problems hurt Allied Domecq

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

PROBLEMS at Carlsberg-Tetley, the brewer, hit profits at Allied Domecq, the drinks and retail company. They fell 20 per cent to £494 million (See Pennington, this page).

Allied, which owns 50 per cent of Carlsberg-Tetley, announced a £90 million exceptional charge to cover the costs of its restructuring programme, which include the closure of Carlsberg-Tetley's factory at Warrington, Cheshire, with the loss of 500 jobs.

The company wrote off a further £50 million from its substantial disposal programme and saw profits from its Mexican operations fall 20 per cent to £48 million over the fall in value of the peso. Underlying profits, excluding the exceptionals, were in line with City expectations, showing no improvement on last year at £635 million.

The continuing problems at Carlsberg-Tetley increased speculation that Allied will attempt to sell the brewer, although the company refused to make any comment.

Profits at Carlsberg-Tetley fell a further 37 per cent last year, to £47 million, on sales of £1 billion, as the company struggled to adapt to the low-margin take-home market and incurred a £3 million cost to recall beer cans with faulty "widgets".

But Michael Jackman, chairman, remained bullish

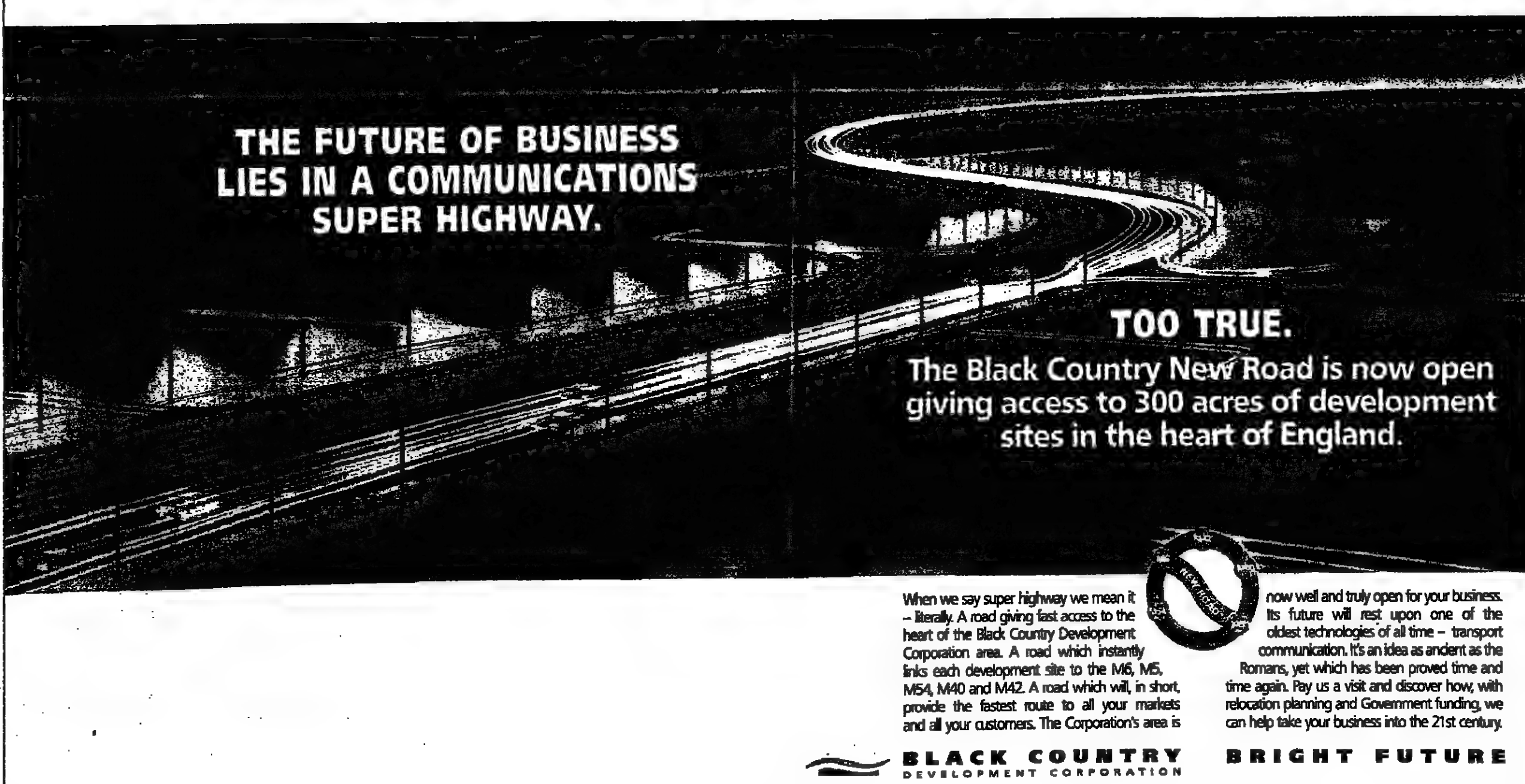
about Allied's prospects. He said: "We have cleared the decks. We have reshaped the business. We are making good progress in the key areas of our business."

The share price closed the day unchanged at 493p. Investors expressed relief that the dividend was unchanged at 11.8p.

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THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Cut out the paper chains

IF KENNETH CLARKE starts to introduce some whacky ideas on how to save money, don't necessarily blame him. The schemes may have come from submissions made to the third annual Adam Smith Institute "Economy in Government" competition, sponsored by Ernst & Young. William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, will reveal the winner from the eight finalists at the Hilton, Park Lane, today.

Suggestions include scrapping the present system of VAT accounting between registered businesses to save £130 million to the taxpayer and £200 million to industry and a plea to cut out the needless duplication of paperwork between employers and the Department of Social Security.

Desired ends

IN CASE you hadn't realised, there is a difference between international financial fraud and organised crime connected with the Mafia or Mob. John Moscow, of the New York County district attorney's office, who is in London attending a three-day symposium on fraud, has the answer. "With the Mob, the cost benefit analysis of any business proposal has to include the possibility of murder in the calculation to achieve the desired business ends."



"He's either French or he thinks we've been taken over"

Dressed to steal

THE STATE of New Jersey has been hit by a spate of successful bank "heists" by a pair of shotgun-wielding professionals disguised as Amish farmers who abhor physical violence and modern technology. Dressed in tall black hats, collarless shirts and false beards, they have stolen about \$250,000 in eight robberies (the average bank robber gets away with \$2,000). Their disguise does not appear to extend to using a pony and trap for the getaway.

Winterflood trust

BRIAN WINTERFLOOD, the affable head of Winterflood Securities, will be raising his glass at a reception at the City of London club tomorrow with justified pride. Reminded, the trust of which he is vice-president, is 21 years old, and Prince Michael of Kent will be there to present a cheque towards research at Liverpool University into Parkinson's disease.

Long's flight

MIKE LONG, stockbroker at Hambros Equities, whose snappy suits, be-whiskered face, diamond pin, fobwatch and chain make him one of the City's snappiest of dressers, has finally enjoyed a sixtieth birthday present to which countless City colleagues contributed — a hot air balloon ride. At the weekend that he and wife Sue took the flight, the basket came down in the grounds of one irate country gentleman, whom Long placated with a bottle of champagne. Savile Row will be shocked to hear that Long wore tracksuit trousers and an anorak for his treat.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Watchdogs led towards peace in the financial services pack

Robert Miller on moves to renew the faith of a disgruntled investing public

City watchdogs may bark louder than they used to but are still not loud enough for MPs. Nor is the public inspired by them with better protection against rogues. In publishing its sixth report on financial services regulation in the UK, the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee yesterday achieved a broad political consensus on what it sees as the way forward. Committee members have made clear that they wish to see many of their recommendations acted on expeditiously. Tighter controls on the derivatives market and proper risk management at one end of the scale and the possibility of individual regulatory contracts between every adviser, whether independent or tied to a large life office, at the other end are among the recommendations.

To emphasise their serious mood, MPs will summon regulators in general, and, in particular, Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City regulator, for regular progress reports.

Members of parliamentary committees, and especially those who chair them, must always have an eye to the wider political stage. For a Conservative-dominated committee to demand wide-sweeping changes to any piece of legislation, let alone one as complex as the Financial Services Act (FSA) 1986, adds to the Government's problems. In addition, the Parliamentary timetable is so packed that new primary legislation is not a realistic starter, for the time being at least.

Conceived in haste during the 1980s, the FSA was put in place at a time when stock markets were booming, the only way for house prices to go was up, and the trillion-dollar derivatives and foreign exchange markets were in their infancy. The FSA has proved to be incomprehensible, its true meanings so vague that various legal challenges have cost well over £1 million. And who foots the bill? The investing public.

As the Commons committee points out, the total cost of regulation comes out at £75.9 million in the current financial year, compared with £61.9 million in 1990-91.

Any new system as complex and diverse as financial services regulation was bound to have teething problems. These have proved to be a series of scandals, such as the collapse of BCCI, the long-running saga of the Knight Williams Group, the spectacular £860 million crash of Barings, Lloyd's of London losses, the mis-selling of unsuitable home income plans to elderly investors, many of whom have died without receiving due compensation, and, perhaps the most damaging, the £4 billion personal pensions scandal. Even those not affected directly are aware of them and the financial services industry



Collette Bowe, chief executive of the PIA, and, clockwise from top, Mick Newmarch, Andrew Large, George Staple, Eddie George and Mike Blackburn, leading protagonists in the changing financial services industry

has fallen into disrepute. The saddest consequence is that millions of people have put off making investment decisions, particularly in relation to their retirement, that could have a serious effect on their later lives.

Many of the earlier failures could be laid at the door of the old-style regulators such as Fimbra, for independent advisers, and Lauro, for the life and unit trust companies. Lauro grasped the nettle early on and achieved a formidable reputation through its fining of some of the leading life companies in the business: Norwich Union, twice (£50,000 and £300,000), Legal & General (£180,000) and Commercial Union (£105,000), to name but a few. Fimbra was always going to have a harder job policing independent financial advisers because of the disparity of its base.

As discontent about the cost and complexity of regulation grew in the early 1990s, so the changes began to take place, piecemeal at first, then rather more wholesale. Fimbra and Lauro were swept away and replaced by the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) last year. But the PIA got off to a shaky start; the same committee that reported yesterday had last year expressed grave doubts as to whether it

would ever be an effective watchdog. It was stalled by the personal and vehement opposition of just one man, Mick Newmarch, then chief executive of the Prudential. He passionately espoused a US-style statutory regulator such as the Securities and Exchange Commission.

He failed to carry anyone with him, although for a while in the summer last year it looked as if the Halifax Building Society, headed by George Staple, might throw in its lot with the Prudential, which is now regulated in rather splendid isolation by the SIB. One of yesterday's recommendations is that the SIB stop regulating firms directly.

The fact that there is a strong feeling within the Labour Party that statutory regulation might be the only way forward in the end should not be seen as a sign that Mr Newmarch and the Opposition were at one on this point. It is more a case of arriving at the same conclusion by totally different routes and for completely different reasons.

On the wholesale markets, this has left the Intermediaries and Managers Regulatory Organisation (Imro) regulating fund managers and the Securities

and Futures Authority (SFA) looking after brokers and futures dealers. Of these two and the SIB, the committee said that they must improve their relationship, and that in-fighting among regulators and "the jostling for position in any potential new structure is not helping to enhance the public perception of the regulatory system" nor adding to investor protection.

As part of its overall view of the FSA, the select committee referred, in passing, to the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), headed by George Staple. It noted "substantial public concern" at the SFO's performance, adding: "This relates not only to the effectiveness in convicting fraudsters but also to the appropriateness of the convictions that it is able to secure." This is believed to refer to the Levis case.

So often in the past, reform and better investor protection have been delayed because of self-interest and political in-fighting within the industry. The select committee has shown that there can be a way forward without wholesale changes in legislation, provided that those concerned co-operate. If they do not heed that clear warning, they could find that the resultant statutory regime makes the FSA look positively benign.

Forget the Budget, watch base rates

Cheaper loans in 1996 are likelier than a tax giveaway now, says Janet Bush

It may seem like heresy, but it is not completely irrational to suggest that the Budget is likely to be an economic irrelevance. The potential significance of whatever package the Chancellor produces on November 28 is overwhelmingly political and, even then, may not have long-lasting positive consequences for the Government.

Reports are being bandied about that Mr Clarke has been triumphant in securing genuine spending cuts and that he will be able to cut taxes by more than the £2 billion to £3 billion that the City consensus would have. Further speculation has it that he could announce tax cuts of £8 billion over three years, offering a fiscal carrot to a sceptical electorate well beyond the Government's election deadline of spring 1997.

These rumours were seen by some as proof that this will be a more generous Budget than many thought would be possible. Others — Michael Saunders, of Salomon Brothers, included —

wear it? The Bank's *Inflation Report*, published today, will be scrutinised carefully for any hints of the Bank's attitude to the Budget, as well as its judgment of inflationary trends.

Eddie George has made clear on a number of occasions — notably in evidence to the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee — that imprudent tax cutting could earn his public disapproval and carry a price in terms of higher rates. However, it is unlikely that the Bank will go beyond its statutory brief and offer overt warnings about fiscal policy.

The message on interest rates will be of far more interest. In August, the Bank was still giving warning that the Government would probably miss its inflation target if rates were not raised. By the September 7 monetary meeting, the Bank had — albeit half-heartedly — backed off from its campaign for tighter money.

The betting now is that the Bank's forecast for inflation will be slightly more positive

6 Kenneth Clarke will not want to risk his reputation as a surprisingly prudent Chancellor

on the matter after economic data that have confirmed the slowdown in growth and an easing in price pressures. Survey evidence — including the Confederation of British Industry and purchasing managers' surveys — points to lower prices. Input price inflation has eased back, and output prices will soon follow.

There is one unfortunate side-effect for inflation in the National Grid rebate, which will artificially depress inflation early next year but inflate it again in spring 1997, just before the election. This may be politically uncomfortable for the Government, but it should not affect Bank of England advice, which, as the Bank continually emphasises, is based on where inflation is likely to be two years out.

So, a Budget that is superficially attractive but broadly prudent is not likely to upset Mr George. And it is conceivable that even the Bank may today admit that the Government will hit its inflation target. The wind is set fair for lower base rates in the spring.

Will the Bank of England

Tom Benyon champions small investors

Why the parties need to woo Sid

In the mid-Eighties, voters were persuaded by advertising campaigns to invest their savings, traditionally held in building society and bank accounts, into equities. The Thatcher Government thought that widely spreading wealth creation was not only good for the country, it would also attract long-term Tory voters as well. But now the worm has turned. A growing number of investors think that they have been ignored by the Government in favour of the institutions — the Tory's natural allies — and they are selling up. They believe that when the moneymen have made their fat fees and the politicians their headlines, they have been either patronised or plain ignored.

As party managers seek formulas to convince voters that they are worth electing, they might focus on moves designed to encourage the disenfranchised investor.

What has gone wrong? For a start, the investor has been denied rights comparable to those given to institutions. The Government also appears to listen too much to the Stock Exchange, and forums, such as Crest and the Weinberg committee, comprised mainly of institutional representatives. Institutions are encouraged to be passive investors under the current proxy systems, the net effect of which, as seen at the British Gas annual meeting last May, has remarkable similarities to the trade union block vote that the Tories campaigned vigorously against. As small shareholders gaze at the priorities of many company managers, they are angered at the sight. The bosses appear to be busier plotting how to trouser inflated sales,



The Sid campaign persuaded millions to buy shares

rolling contracts, option schemes, bonuses and, now we learn, grossly funded pensions, then looking to their duties.

Most institutions show no real interest, even by attending AGMs. They are, of course, briefed privately at meetings where Sid is excluded. In spite of their privileges, the institutions do not use their muscle; as they supplant the private investor, institutional involvement and influence over directors appears to be passive and acquiescent.

AGMs have turned into meaningless charades with the use of faceless proxies. Nowadays, AGMs only benefit the spin-doctors who earn a handsome living from company money; the prime role of public relations officers is to ensure that the meetings are so organised that the directors, their paymasters, remain

unaccountable to the people whose money it really is. Any political party seeking to encourage small investor interests and support by initiating overdue reforms will win, and deserve to, valuable political backing.

The advantages of encouraging the smaller investor are not just political. Smaller shareholders tend to be more active, longer term, and more loyal to companies.

So what should political parties do to win small shareholder support? Help should come in two ways. First, in tax changes. The tax-credit system should continue except for private, non-institutional holdings, where the dividend should be paid in full. The first £2,000 of dividend and investment income should be tax-free. Transfer tax on share purchases for private investor purchases should be eliminated. The tax allowance of

£6,000 for capital gains tax should be doubled. Investment clubs should be encouraged by granting tax-free privileges on all capital gains and dividend earnings where the club's funds total up to £100,000 and there are more than 12 subscriber members. All expenses — such as subscriptions to The Guild, newspapers and reasonable office costs should be tax deductible. Then encouragement should be given to company private investors to unite in a representative body, limited by guarantee, non-profit making and non-taxable. Such a group should be entitled to access rights to company data, identical to those held by institutional shareholders. Next, when 20 per cent of voters join such a body they should have the right to appoint one non-executive director to the company board. These groups should be able to circulate shareholders annually at the company's expense. Then why not disenfranchise non-attending shareholders from voting at AGMs? The Stock Exchange should be encouraged not to accept effective discrimination against private investors implied by the intended debarment of them from future new issue flotations and placements. And executive options should entail purchases in the market rather than issuing new shares out of authorised unissued capital so that shareholders can gain some indirect benefit from such arrangements. Sid would vote for the party that supported such changes.

The author is chairman of The Guild of Shareholders and was Conservative MP for Abingdon 1979-83.

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Buying an old mill may seem like a dream. For one family it became a nightmare and then a labour of love. Ronald Gribble reports

"WE STOOD outside in our pyjamas and watched the mill go up in flames. When the roof fell in we lost everything because our furniture and possessions were stored on the ground floor."

Julian James describes the scene vividly as he remembers how he and his wife, Mandy, and their teenage children, Justin and Tessa, watched helplessly in the darkness, silhouetted in the glow of the fire, as their dreams went up in smoke. It was 3 o'clock on the morning of Sunday, August 23, 1987.

Only three days earlier they had exchanged contracts on the 16th-century watermill and handed over more than £150,000 to the Crown Commissioners for the property.

The fire chief told his men to forget the mill and to save the millhouse, says Mr James, 52, a personnel director of a construction company. "But we pleaded with him to save the Victorian mill mechanism, which was almost unique." Firemen pumped water from the river and one crew spent the night spraying the equipment.

The light of morning showed that the four walls of the mill remained and that a rear section of the house had been destroyed. Falling brickwork had smashed on to the waterwheel and buckled some of the wrought-iron buckets. Two pairs of millstones had cracked in the heat, and an ancient metal handpump in the house, used to draw water from an underground spring, had melted. But a search among the charred timbers revealed that the firemen had saved the Hurst frame which supported the gears and grinding mechanism.

All the Jameses had left of their personal belongings was in a caravan on site in which they were living while they restored the run-down house, and prepared to open the mill as a working museum and study centre for schools.

The firemen suspected an electrical fault and repair costs were estimated at £200,000, but Mr James believes vandals may have started the fire. They had broken into the mill during the sale negotiations and taken original miller's tools from a locked cupboard. "Fortunately," Mr James says, "some of the most valuable tools were on loan to St Albans Museum at the time and these were saved from the thieves and the fire."

"We had not moved into the millhouse straight away because it had dry rot, wet rot, rising damp, a leaking roof and a flooded cellar. But when the hosepipe supplying water to our caravan froze that November a neighbouring farmer



Julian James takes a tea break from doing a repair on the brickwork and timbers supporting the cast-iron Victorian waterwheel. Right: Redbourn Mill and the millhouse today after restoration



kindly let us rent his old farmhouse for the winter."

Today, after eight years of painstaking restoration by local craftsmen and volunteers, and a grant from English Heritage, Redbourn Mill, near St Albans in Hertfordshire, has risen from the ashes and been reclassified as a Grade II* listed building.

While her husband and son turned their hand to everything from labouring to bricklaying, Mandy — helped by daughter Tessa, 20, when home from univer-

The Miller's Tale

sity — made cakes and served teas on the days when the mill was opened for fundraising events.

Working from photographs and drawings, the team pieced together the mill just as it had been, reclaiming many of the fire-damaged materials. Nine tons of English oak were used. David Nicholls,

a local builder and one of the last millwrights in the country, then rebuilt all the machinery in the mill, using some parts rescued from other derelict mills.

Now the Jameses have high hopes of grinding corn commercially at the mill by this Christmas or the beginning of the new year.

It is another historic landmark for a mill that was recorded on the site in the Domesday Book of 1086 and destroyed by a fire 200 years later. Parts of the present mill date from the 16th century, although the wooden wheel and mechanism was replaced with iron machinery in 1790. Henry VIII seized the mill in

1539, and it was leased to William Hickman of St Albans for £100 down and fivepence a year in 1651.

By 1841 the mill was held by Edward Hawkins, whose family continued to work the mill for the next 144 years. His granddaughter, Ivy Hawkins, became the "only lady miller in England" after her brother was killed on the Western Front in 1917. In 1985, aged 89, she left the mill for a local nursing home and lived to the age of 94.

"Ivy was a remarkable woman," says Justin James, 23, who, having

graduated in marine engineering at Newcastle University, is to run the milling side of the business. "Although she stopped milling in the 1950s, she kept the machinery in working order by using the water-wheel to drive a powersaw to cut her firewood until the 1970s."

"We have canvassed about 60 local bakeries and many are interested in selling our stoneground flour and using it to make bread."

The new life of the mill coincides with the rebirth of its driving force — the River Ver, which three years ago dried up after the over-extraction of water for industrial use. After pressure from the Ver Valley Society and the National Rivers Authority, Three Valleys Water agreed to spend £2.5 million on a scheme to pipe water from a reservoir in Cambridgeshire. Since its completion, the flows of the river have returned. The NRA is now dredging the river bed to attract the return of plant, fish and bird life. Julian James says: "We need an extra two or three feet of water to turn the wheel. The banks upstream are full of holes caused by animals burrowing and need repairing, but once the silt from the dredging is dumped onto the banks, this will seal the leaks and help to raise the water level. Soon, we should see the mill working for the first time in 35 years."

● A crafts fair will be held at the mill, on the A5 between St Albans and Redbourn, on Dec 3, 10.30 to 5. Fee, £1.20



August 1987: a fire engine searchlight picks out the mill as smoke billows from the roof. Right: miller Ivy Hawkins, 62, pictured at work in August 1959, just before she retired



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Deutsche Telekom jobs purge

Deutsche Telekom, the German telecommunications group scheduled to become Europe's biggest privatisation next November, has finally agreed with its trade union on a plan to shed 60,000 jobs by the year 2000.

Ron Sommer, the group's chairman, sees the reduction as a key element in transforming the sprawling state monopoly for the private sector.

The deal, agreed late on Monday night, will reduce the workforce to 170,000. The company plans to cut the number of employees by almost 15,000 this year, awarding one-off compensation deals that will cost it about DM400 million.

More gloom for Iberia

The future of Iberia, Spain's troubled state airline, seemed bleak yesterday as Juan Manuel Eguiaray, the Spanish Minister for Industry, tried to break through in talks with the EU for another government bailout.

A report by Barclays de Zoete Wedd published yesterday said the airline was virtually bankrupt. Spain had been seeking permission from the EU to give Iberia 130 billion pesetas (£670 million) of public funds. So far, only 52 billion pesetas has been offered.

MMT record

Increasing client demand helped pre-tax profits at MMT Computing, the computer services company, to advance 22.8 per cent to a record £3.08 million in the year to August 31, as turnover rose 28.5 per cent to £14 million. A final dividend of 4.4p (3.7p), payable on January 8, gives a near 19 per cent rise in the yearly total to 6.2p (5.2p), from earnings ahead 24 per cent to 16.3p (13.1p) a share. MMT shares fell 12p to 208p.

Water group to spend £15m after increase in profits and efficiency savings

Anglian promises extra investment

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

ANGLIAN WATER has promised to spend an extra £15 million voluntarily on environmental and anti-drought measures after what Alan Smith, chief executive, described as the most successful half year in its history.

Pre-tax profits grew by 4.3 per cent to £126 million in the six months to September 30, in spite of an increased loss of £4.5 million, against £18 million, from unregulated water engineering businesses. The core East Anglian water and sewerage utility raised operating profits by 10 per cent to £154 million on turnover up 5 per cent to £331 million. Prices were up 4.1 per cent and

Anglian gained about 14,000 extra customers.

The interim dividend rises 11 per cent to 8.9p per share from earnings up 6.5 per cent to 41.2p. Earnings per share were helped by Anglian buying in a tenth of its shares.

Robin Gourlay, the chairman, said the dividend rise was justified by the company's success in cutting costs by more than its regulator had assumed. Efficiency savings of £10.1 million pushed operating costs down 3 per cent to £126 million, a drop of 6.5 per cent in real terms.

Chris Mellor, finance director, said that the cost-cutting programme was a year ahead

of schedule and savings should reach £20 million for the full year. In addition, Anglian is in talks with neighbouring Severn Trent Water on co-operation to cut costs on anything from emergency vehicles to procurement.

Mr Smith emphasised that no merger was contemplated and Anglian had no wish to move into electricity. The company held talks with Eastern Electricity, but they came to nothing and only modest savings were found. Eastern has since been taken over by Hanson, the conglomerate.

Two thirds of the £15 million voluntary investment will go on improvements to the water distribution network to remedy weaknesses shown by the drought, even though Anglian was one of the companies that managed to avoid hosepipe bans or any extensive loss of supply — at an extra cost of about £1 million.

Anglian will consult the National Rivers Authority on priorities for the unbudgeted environmental spending. The £15 million is not allowed for in prices. Total investment will be little changed at about £300 million for the full year.

The company has the lowest leakage rate of the ten privatised water groups. But Mr Smith said there might be a short-term upturn as the dry ground made burst pipes more likely this winter.

While rejecting proposed reforms of water regulation, Anglian is calling for much greater influence for its customers in deciding the balance between quality and prices. In order to keep prices down in last year's review, Ofwat rejected £200 million of investment approved by an extensive customer survey. The company has among the highest prices in the country, but has also gone farthest in metering, with 13 per cent of households now on meters.

Mr Smith said that customer services committees appointed by Ofwat did a good job, but that an independent voice for consumers required a model more like the Gas Consumers' Council.

Chief executive at Calor resigns

By COLIN NARBROUGH

THE chief executive of Calor Group resigned yesterday as the company issued a warning that profits would fall materially below those earned in the previous year.

Shares in Calor, the bottled gas company, fell, 20p to 237p, after it was revealed that Howard Robinson had "relinquished his position" as chief executive "to pursue his career elsewhere".

Mr Robinson, who had been in the job since January 1993, is believed to have disagreed with other board members over the direction of the company's UK bottled gas business. He is succeeded by John Harris, managing director of Calor's liquefied petroleum gas (lpg) business.

Mr Robinson was on a one-year contract and earned about £125,000 a year.

Demand for Calor gas has suffered in recent years. Successive mild winters have reduced overall demand for heating fuels, while competition from newcomers to the market has caused a reduction in prices and margins. Yesterday, the company warned shareholders that the warm weather had had an adverse effect on sales for heating purposes in September and October. "Unless different weather patterns emerge in the remaining two months of the year, the directors consider that group earnings in the second half of the year will be materially below those of the comparable period last year," the company said.

At the interim stage, Calor disclosed a decline in pre-tax profits to £26.2 million from £31.1 million. In the last full financial year, profits fell to £48.8 million from £51.5 million.

SHV Energy, a subsidiary of the Dutch consumer products group, holds a 51.6 per cent interest in Calor. The two companies have joined forces to develop interests in lpg overseas, beginning in Brazil. Separately, Calor has established a joint venture with Texaco in the UK to enter the natural gas market for domestic consumers, beginning in the South West.



Alan Smith, left, Robin Gourlay, centre, and Chris Mellor are to pour funds into investment

Currencies gain helps Amersham to edge up

By PHILIP FANGALOS

GROWING consolidation in the drugs industry and tighter research budgets combined with a sharp downturn in German environmental sciences business at Amersham International, taking a toll on the health science group's profits.

Currency benefits helped Amersham's pre-tax profits to edge up to £19.8 million in the six months to September 30, from £19.6 million last time, as turnover climbed 6 per cent to £163.9 million. Profits were boosted by a £1.5 million currency gain, with underlying profits down 7 per cent. Research and development spend rose 5 per cent to £10.3 million.

The group's life sciences operations have faced tough trading in the US as growing consolidation in the drugs industry has tightened research budgets, cutting out entire R&D units at some companies, and has hit sales of Amersham's diagnostic and assay kits. Operating profits at the division rose to £15.6 million (£15.3 million), on flat turnover of £74.4 million.

In spite of intensified price competition affecting traditional radiochemicals, Bill Castell, chief executive, expects the life sciences division to benefit from past restructuring and investment in new products, especially in the areas of sequencing and enzymes.

The healthcare division's profit rose to £5.9 million (£5.5 million), on turnover of £66.3 million (£62.3 million). Sales of Ceretec, Amersham's patented brain imaging agent, were hit by increased competition from DuPont's Neulofite, which was on sale in Japan and the US for the first time as well as Europe.

Operating profits from the industrial quality and safety assurance division slumped to £400,000 (£1.3 million), on turnover of £20.9 million (£22.7 million).

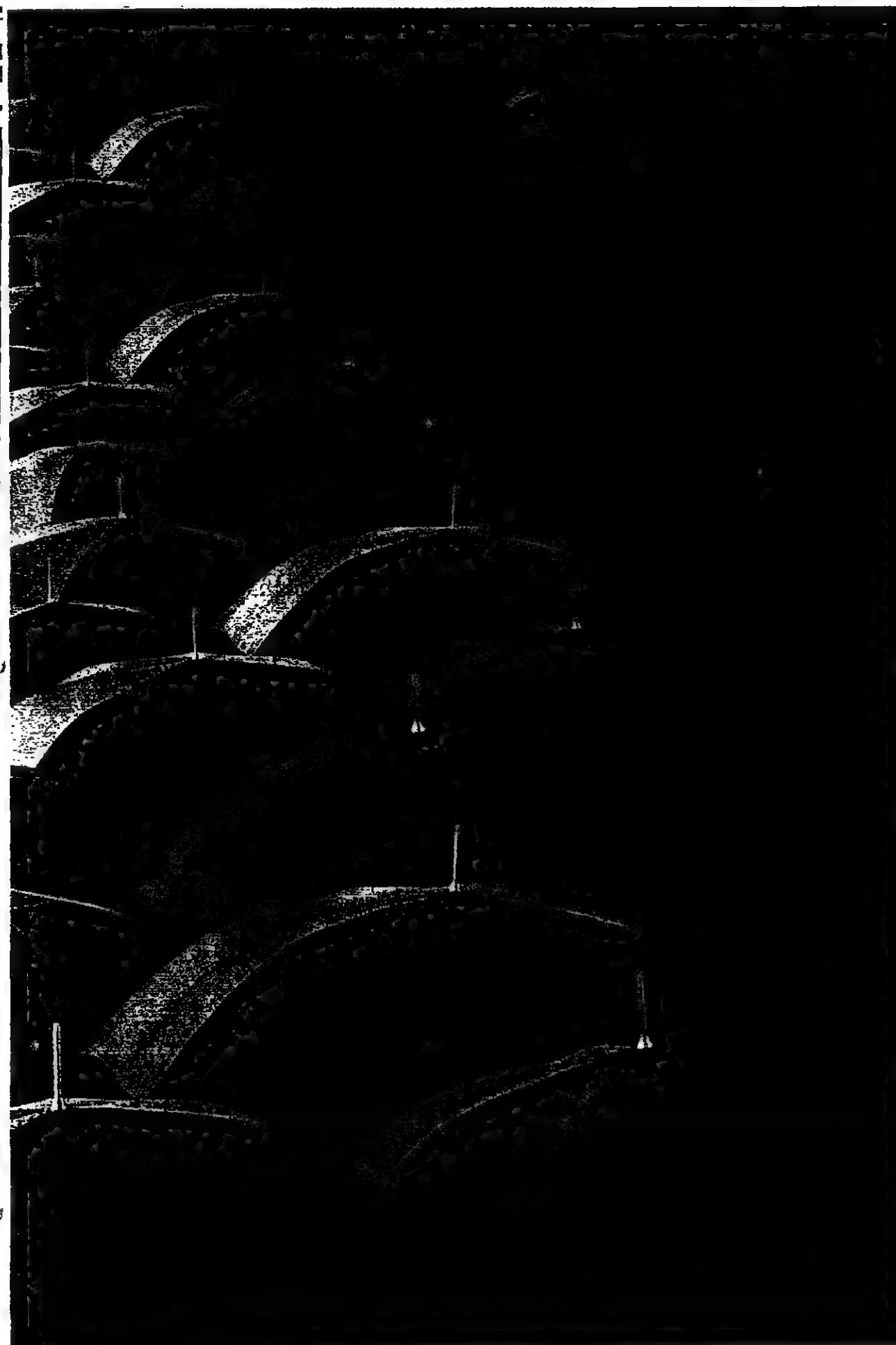
The interim dividend is maintained at 4.9p, in spite of a dip in earnings to 20.1p (20.8p) a share.

Amersham shares tumbled 71p to 849p.

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8 1995

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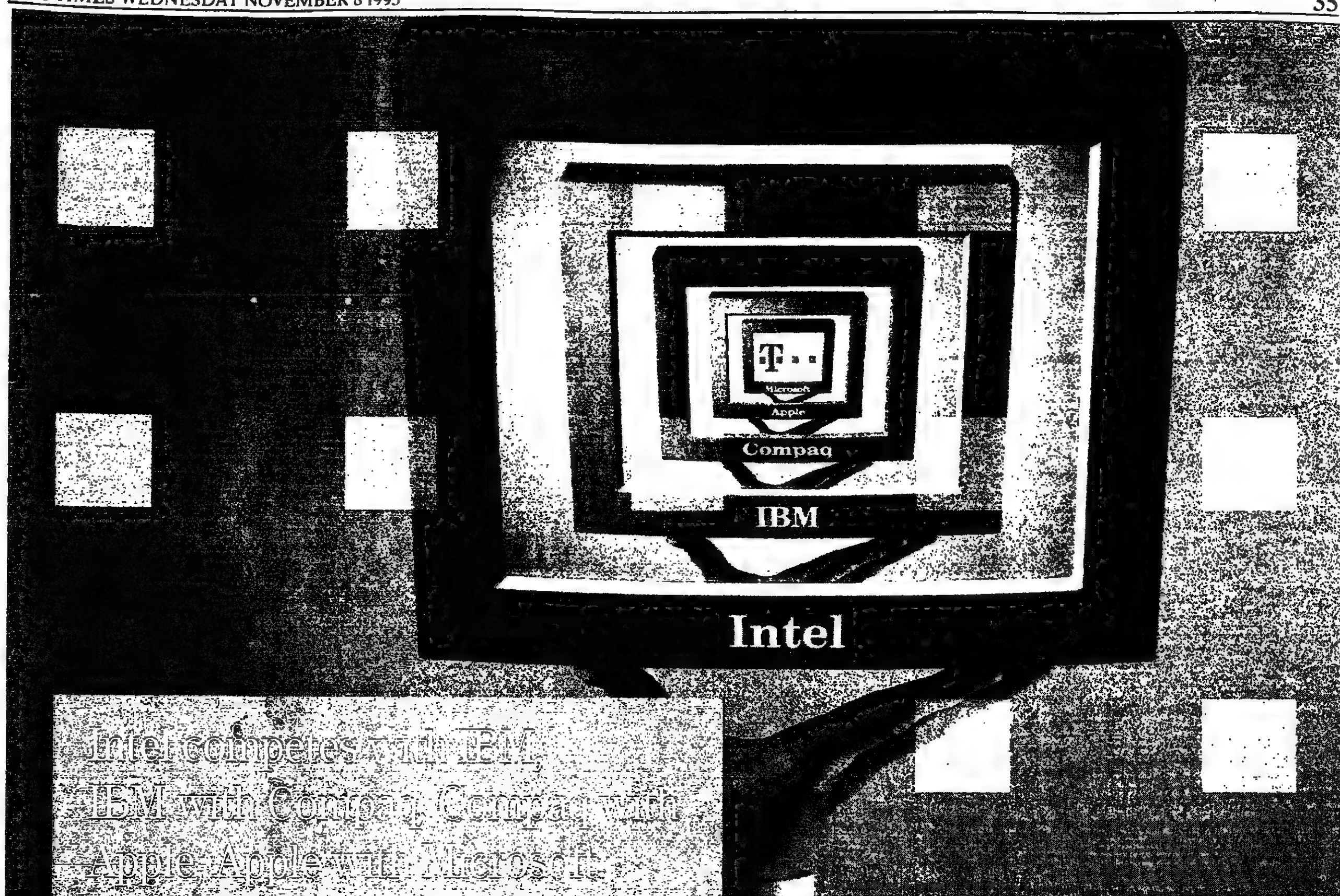


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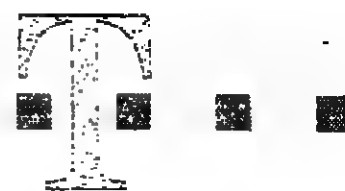
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THEATRE 1

From the ageless Julie Andrews's return to the stage in the new musical *Victor/Victoria*...

THEATRE 2

... to Zoe Caldwell playing Maria Callas in McNally's *Master Class*: New York is back on song

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE 3

Corin Redgrave plays the actor on the slide in Clifford Odets's *The Country Girl* at Greenwich

THEATRE 4

... and Dorothy Parker's late play, *Ladies of the Corridor*, is also revived on the London fringe

Sweet Julie loses out to Callas treatment

The big Broadway musical is alive and kicking, says Benedict Nightingale, but the class act comes from opera

Applause inflation is rampant in America, creating problems for the reviewer. What do you do when audiences leap to their feet en masse and give a performer a long, ecstatic ovation? If you refuse to stand, you look like a curmudgeon from a Baileys cartoon. The Man Who Didn't Like Carol Channing. If you join in, you are betraying your professional detachment and, often, your true feelings. "I pretend I have lost my wallet under my seat," says a New York colleague. "That keeps me safely on the ground for plenty of time."

During a long weekend spent moggling in the Big Apple, this dilemma faced me twice. The first time, I kept my seat despite the dangerous-sounding yelps and whoops of animal glee that Julie Andrews's presence in *Victor/Victoria*, the new musical at the Marquis, provoked in the man behind me.

The second, I'm afraid I stopped being a professional and became a person. Very occasionally you come across a performance so miraculous that it makes the lame walk and pulls critics from the half-horizontal to the vertical. Zoe Caldwell's Maria Callas in Terrence McNally's *Master Class* had that effect on me and, let's hope, will have it on Broadway itself.

Everyone is saying that the Fabulous Invalid is looking friskier this season than for ages. According to *Variety*, 11 new productions have opened this season, compared with just four a year ago, and the total box-office receipts since May are up from \$158 million to \$177 million. But don't gloat too loudly or talk too precipitately of recovery. Nearly a third of Broadway's 40 theatres are dark. And of the \$9

million taken in a recent week, some \$6 million came from just ten mega-musicals, *Phantom of the Opera* to *Miss Saigon* to the disappointing but clearly unstoppable *Victor/Victoria*.

Drama is still having a tough time on Broadway. No one sees any future for one of the two straight plays that have just joined the one or two already there. If there is anything Broadway audiences suspect more than religious subjects it is problem-plays, and Diane Shaffer's *Sacred*, which has Ellen Burstyn as a battling nun who wants to be a crusading priest, is a problem-play about religion.

But the other new arrival is more than a joy. It is a test-case. If *Master Class* fails, the producers might as well nail a neon placard reading "musicals only" over Times Square.

McNally conceived the play as a solo turn set nowhere much, then added a bashful pianist and three aspiring singers and transposed the action to Juilliard in the 1970s. This means that, although Caldwell's Callas dominates, her professional and personal monomania emerges more dramatically and, mostly, with more cause.

She tries to inject soul into the plump girl in apricot muslin who trills her way through a key song in Bellini's *Sonnambula*, sounding as if she has lost a cookie-jar, not a lover. She chastens the cocky tenor who aspires to be the next Mario Lanza, and somehow gets from him a rendering of Puccini's *Recondita armonia* that reduces her to momentary tears. Finally, she is vilified by the edgy soprano she has guided through Lady Macbeth's letter-reading scene



The diva comes to life on Broadway: Zoe Caldwell (right) as Maria Callas with David Loud in Terrence McNally's superb play, *Master Class*

and then gently informed she lacks genius.

Since Callas is given to confidential asides, plenty of information emerges about her history and philosophy. The formative years of hunger and fear in wartime Athens. Her rejection of her first husband for the crude, boastful zillionaire who said his favourite moment in opera was the interval, and then her Medea-style abandonment by him. Her insistence that music

is a sacramental art, unreachable except by total emotional honesty and absolute self-discipline.

McNally could cut some of Callas's easier laugh-lines — one about orgasms clearly embarrassed Caldwell herself — but generally he maintains a balance between the seriously funny and the seriously serious.

So does Caldwell, an Australian-born actress far better known in America than Brit-

ain. She keeps you laughing at Callas's irony, fastidiousness, unwitting egotism and brusque pride — "How can you have rivals when no one else can do what you do?" — while never letting you lose either respect for her rigour or sight of her vulnerability.

Caldwell does not sing: but on two occasions her raddled face and white, glinting eyes are frozen in a spot, and recorded Callas replaces her pupils' warblings. To hear her

talk of triumph at La Scala while Bellini fills the Golden Theatre is unforgettable, worth swimming to New York to catch.

After that, all else on Broadway shines a bit wanly, although there is plenty of harmless merriment to be had from Ken Ludwig's new *Moon over Buffalo*. The formula includes Carol Burnett and Philip Bosco as a theatrical couple on the slide. Irish coffee erroneously substitut-

ing as a cure for drunkenness, an innocent TV weatherman mistaken for a great movie director, and a matinee that goes spectacularly awry when *Cyrano* blunders into *Private Lives*. At times the result lacks the logic of the best farce, but at others it struck me as the funniest play about temperamental thespians since Kattigan's *Harlequinade*, possibly even Coward's *Hay Fever*.

This is also turning out to be the season for golden, or at

least gold-tinted, oldies. I side-stepped the 74-year-old Channing in what may and may not be her final *Hello, Dolly!*; but I caught Andrews, who carbon-dates 60 and looks 40, in the musical version of Blake Edwards's film about the starving singer who turns fake drag queen and becomes the toast of 1930s Paris. *Victor/Victoria* is slick, gorgeously designed, and troubled.

One trouble is that Andrews, although exuding quiet decency and dignified sweetness, never looks either starving or plausibly male. Another is that Paré brought the worst out of Henry Mancini, whose music is dull, and Leslie Bricusse, whose lyrics are dim. A song called *Paris Makes Me Horny* rhymes Stockholm with "schlock home" and suggests that in Munich "every guy's a eunuch". Other drawbacks include a big, bland gangster-hero, a tough bodyguard who turns out to be a sensitive, chess-playing homosexual, and sentiment galore.

At such points wise critics venture off Broadway, as I did to the Promenade for another, livelier imaginative trip to old Paris. Picasso at the Lapin Agile, by the comedian Steve Martin, brings together the youthful painter and the young Einstein in a turn-of-the-century bar, and sets them debating beauty, the future and much else. Terry Johnson has played similar people-games in *Insight* and *Hysteria*, as has Tom Stoppard in *Travesties*. Martin has his enjoyably silly moments, but also his enjoyably sharp ones, and isn't disgraced by such comparisons. If he waxes a bit sentimental about genius, you forgive him.

Plot there isn't. Instead, you feel Martin is splitting what might be a good solo turn among the members of Randall Arney's cast. Still, who cares when the effect is so often so funny?

Boozily treading the boards

The Country Girl
Greenwich Theatre

Clifford Odets's drama of a drunken actor and his stalwart wife was renamed *Winter Journey* for its London premiere in 1952. But when the Bing Crosby/Grace Kelly film was released in Britain, the original name was retained, and Annie Castledine's new production sensibly does the same.

Forty-three years ago the leads were Michael Redgrave and Google Withers, with Sam Wanamaker as Bernie Dodd, the hag-ridden director of the play in which Frank, the potentially great actor, is nervously starting. This time Frank is played by Redgrave's son, Corin, and I wish I were old enough to do a compare and contrast job but I'm not, so that's that.

The play is a good old human drama piece, and if its neat and happy ending seems rather easily obtained after the middle region looks more likely to end in tears, there is one compensation — Odets



Corin Redgrave and Kika Markham as the drunken husband and stalwart wife caught in a human drama

was not an attractive man but, as a programme note points out, he differed from so many mid-century American dramatists in not blaming women for the troubles of men.

Dodd quickly assumes that Frank's wife, Georgie, is jealous of his success and is doing all she can, including providing alcohol, to wreck her husband's comeback. Dodd's own tormented marriage clouds his judgment, and the

dramatic struggle thus becomes one in which Bernie thinks he is saving Frank by doing the one thing that will destroy him: the wife is not Frank's enemy, but his prop.

The play, or it may be the production, would provide sharper suspense if we did not recognise from the start that Kika Markham's Georgie is virtuous and misunderstood. Markham's intonations are not those of a nagger. But the

play is really a learning process for Bernie Dodd, in which he must grow away from prejudice.

As Bernie, Daniel Stewart could make a more arresting moment of his discovery of Frank's scarred wrists, the turning-point of the play, but his facial expressions when reassessing his assumptions are perfectly judged. Redgrave gives a most telling interpretation of the complexities of Frank: the glimpses we get of the man's almost ungovernable power as an actor, when in touch with his strength, are of a piece with his nervous, self-defensive giggles when nerves eviscerate him.

On Simon Banham's ingenious set, where a metal drawbridge above the dressing-room is lowered to become a stage, Castledine's fluid production neatly uses actors and stage managers to change scenes. She also extends Odets's two references to background music so that in every scene we overhear a snatch of swing or a waltz. The personal struggle is apart from, yet part of, a wider world.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Sad satire without a sharp point

Ladies of the
Corridor
Finborough, SW10

Industry, I wished the piece were sharper. Director Sean O'Connor's production commendably amasses a large company, including ladies who cannot be cast from the spring chickens who normally play the fringe. Heather Chasen as Grace Nichols, the rich cripple who will not let go of her son, can be chillingly calculating and Carolyn Jones's Lulu has drive. Showing younger promise are Caroline O'Neill as Mildred and the naturally funny Laura Macaulay as the smiling but merciless receptionist.

However, to borrow a back-hander from Mrs Parker herself (allegedly), this show runs the whole gamut of emotions from A to B. It curiously touches no nerves. Stuart Parker's Harry, the purser who has provided other ser-

vices for Mildred, does not have the viciousness to push her to suicide. Andrew Henry's Paul, who should be badly shaken by a previous jilting, is a mere smoothie. James Dearlove's dribble-stained set, with the streaming tail-lights of cars visible through the theatre's windows, is grimmer than the performance.

Parker's plot, though Am-

aud D'Ussau collaborated on structuring the storylines, drifts then jerks and somewhat outstays its welcome. There are laughs. This is a social satire, with sniping and snobishness, nosy-parkers and little old kleptomaniacs, yet the wit is hardly dazzling. Not bad, but no big wow.

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OPERA: The rise and rise of Amanda Roocroft; plus, was Sian Edwards in the wrong place at the wrong time?

Star shooting to the top

John Allison
on the soprano
whose diary is
so booked that
she can turn
down La Scala

The soprano Amanda Roocroft is riding the crest of one of the fastest-developing careers in opera. Not yet 30, she has a diary booked until 1999 with strenuous roles in houses ranging from Covent Garden to Munich and the Met. And, although she stresses a determination to pace herself, she leads life to the full: the next few days should see not only the release of her second solo album, but also the birth of her first child.

She remains undaunted by the prospect: undaunted, too, by having to be back at work in January — singing Amelia in *Simon Boccanegra* in Munich — before tackling the demanding title role in Strauss's *Arabella* at Covent Garden in March. "I'm doing my exercises," she says. "But I'm not singing singing; that makes too many demands on the stomach muscles, and would mean adapting my technique and then reapplying it after the baby is born. I didn't want to do anything counter-productive, so I stopped performing at the end of July."

Roocroft is not the only one taking time off for the birth: her husband is the German baritone, Manfred Henn. "Normally we try not to work on big shows at the same time," she says. "So one can travel to hear the other, and vice versa. It's better to be supportive, rather than to get nervous together. You want to feel: 'I'm being the star now, it's time to pamper me.' And it can be more stressful singing together: two years ago we both sang in a hideous *Costi* in Lausanne, and all we could talk about was how awful the production was and how miserable we were."

Fiordiligi in *Costi* has become one of Roocroft's calling cards. She made her Glyndebourne debut under Simon Rattle in the role in 1991, recorded it with John Eliot Gardiner, and sang it in the Royal Opera's Miller-Orman production last January. It is also the part that first brought her to notice in 1988, while she was a student at the Royal Northern College of Music. Enthusiastic reviews were followed by more praise

the following year, when she sang in the RNCM production of Handel's *Alcina*. Writing in *Opera* magazine, the critic Michael Kennedy noted that "in 40 years of listening to young singers I have never before heard, at this stage in development, a phenomenon to surpass Miss Roocroft."

Opera managements were quick to snap her up. She made her professional debut as Sophie in Welsh National Opera's *Rosenkavalier*, and, by 1991, had appeared at Covent Garden, as Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*. That WNO show and a stint as Ginevra in English National Opera's *Ariadane* have been her only outings with the regional companies here. Now that she is plunging into new roles in the international spotlight — Desdemona under Zubin Mehta at Munich, Mimi and Luisa Miller at Covent Garden all beckon — does she not feel that she has missed out on the learning experience of smaller stages?

"Earlier on, it was more exciting that way, but I didn't think of the consequences. I just went on and did as well as I could, and didn't think that I would be judged alongside people who had been in the profession ten or 15 years longer. But it has made me harder on myself. The nature of our job is to learn by experience, so I'm making my mistakes in a more public way. All I can do now is restrict the number of high-profile things I undertake." And she can cite offers declined, such as *Traviata* at La Scala and Pamina under Soliti at Salzburg — "Nobody believes me apart from my agent and teacher" — as indication of the pressure on her.

Roocroft plainly deserves success. She is a serious, gifted

young singer with a secure technique and sunny tone. But some of her performances have lacked the communication that greater clarity of words can bring, and she is aware of the problem. "My diction's gradually getting better. Maybe it will never be great, but I can name a few Dames whose diction was never the best! That doesn't give me an excuse — I suppose I've been taught that quality of sound is the most important."

Discussion of Roocroft's two solo discs reveals something of the direction in which her career is going. The first, released a year ago, ranged widely from Handel, to Strauss and Puccini. "I think my resting place may be in Strauss, Verdi and, hopefully, Puccini. But I could never leave Mozart behind. So, having given everyone a taste of what the future may hold, in *Mozart and his Contemporaries* I decided to return to the present."

The "contemporaries" are Cimarosa and Haydn. Cimarosa's oratorio, *Il sacrificio d'Abraham*, was written in the same year as *Figaro*, "so it is nice to compare what was going on in Italy and Austria. In my aria from *Artemisia*, the first phrase is similar to the opening of *Non mi dir* in *Giovanni*, which reminds you that composers were borrowing from each other. I hope that these bits will make the album more interesting for the public. For the rest, Mozart is where I've had my career so far, so it made sense to concentrate on him."

● *Mozart and his Contemporaries* is released by EMI



Roocroft: looking forward to her second solo album, and the birth of her first child

ENO needs new direction

The shock resignation of Sian Edwards as music director of the English National Opera is not all that much of a shock: the operatic undergrowth has been rife with rumours of her impending departure for some months now. All that was needed was the right "political" moment, and the shock element resides mainly in the fact that this is not the right moment: no successor has been announced to wrap the whole affair up neatly.

There is certainly no shortage of candidates in the rumour factory: just as four years ago practically everyone in Britain wanted Nicholas Payne to run their opera companies (and Covent Garden won), so Opera North's music director Paul Daniel is the favourite (though he would surely be ill-advised to leave his "can't fail" post in Leeds); Richard Hickox is another name on everyone's lips, though his operatic experience is pretty limited.

Edwards's appointment four years ago was seen by the cynical as a media event as much as anything else: she was young, personable and female, and the time and place were right. The cynical might also argue that media reactions to her work at the Coliseum were coloured by this: coverage of her conducting has been less than generous to say the least, and often condescending; there has been something approaching a perceptible "get Edwards" campaign that in turn has led some commentators to give her the benefit of the doubt.

Edwards is a good musician. She has given a number of impressive performances — notably an incandescent *Traviata* for Glyndebourne

Touring Opera, and a fine *Gambler* at ENO — before taking up the Coliseum post. She had also been in charge of some duff ones, especially at Covent Garden, where she seemed unable to impose her will on the sort of multiple, unrehearsed cast changes that are part of an international house's way of life. That should have sent out any number of warning signals. She is also an enormously likeable person, which should be irrelevant but isn't: the truth is that there has to be an element of the ruthless and tyrannical in the make-up of a successful music director in opera and I don't believe it is there in Edwards, any more than it was in an ENO predecessor, Sir Charles Groves, who was far, far too nice for the job.

Last season's disastrous *Mahagonny* seemed to me to spell it out all too clearly: it was a work Edwards knew well and understood, but decisions were taken about amplification and the placing of the chorus in the auditorium that no music director should have tolerated. Edwards didn't put her foot down.

Not that her time at ENO was without high points. Last season's prize-winning *Khwashchinskii* was a solid success. But there have also been some dim evenings, and in the end she was perhaps the wrong person for the job at the wrong time. And there's the rub: it was the wrong time then, with an entirely new management in place, it is even more wrong now: Dennis Marks's management has even more trenchant critics than Edwards's musical directorship.

The new musical director will need the guts to take over at a time of great uncertainty — the company is considering the possibility of leaving the Coliseum, its home for nearly 30 years — and provide qualities of leadership quite out of the ordinary. Morale is vital, now more than at any time in ENO's history. He, or as it may be she, will need to reassert the primacy of musical values, since it is on those values that in the end the success of any opera company depends.

And it will have to be someone who trusts Marks, and vice-versa, which does not seem to have been the case in recent years. Conspiracy theorists suggest that Edwards was appointed over Marks's head in the first place. Anyway, there is a feeling of sacrificial lamb to her departure, and I don't like it.

RODNEY MILNES

ARCHITECTURE: Marcus Binney on how Terry Farrell is trying to prove his critics wrong

Terry Farrell has met his critics. Fed up with sniping from fellow architects, he has mounted the biggest, wannabeist exhibition yet held at the Royal Institute of British Architects. More a "show" than a conventional exhibit, it consists of numerous very large, bold colour photographs, computer simulations and giant models which are best seen at night when they light up internally. "Buildings are large sculptural objects," Farrell explains. "So I built six of the biggest models ever made in the UK." We are used to looking down at architectural models; here you look up at models set on plinths the size of the average kitchen. It is architecture's equivalent of the V&A cast galleries, all in white and very dramatic.

King of the populists

The criticism made of Farrell is that he lacks integrity and rigour, that he fails to adhere to the functionalist doctrines of truth to materials and structural honesty. Farrell rebuts all doctrinaire stances as inimical. While many architects believe the guiding force in design is the creation of space, Farrell believes it is about mass and volume. He likes buildings that are big, expressive, with a strong personality of their own.

When recession hit Britain in the late 1980s, Farrell went east, winning three major commissions in Hong Kong, another while stopping off at Dubai, and now a commission for a major corporate headquarters in Seoul. More jobs in Korea are now in prospect. Farrell's buildings are about imagery and he believes this gives his designs appeal in the East. "They

prefer gentle curves to the angular high-tech language of much contemporary British architecture."

Farrell's Peak Tower in Hong Kong has been dubbed the "Flying Vok". His drawings, showing it entwined with plumes of white smoke illuminated by spotlights, are straight out of *Ghostbusters*. His buildings constantly suggest analogies, whether from everyday objects or science fiction. His competition design for a new station in Lisbon could be a bread slicer; the ventilation building for Kowloon Station looks set to move on its hunches like a vehicle out of *Power Rangers*. Farrell's buildings are also about contrast. The Dubai Arts Centre is half airport terminal and half caravan-

serai arcaded court around a secluded garden. Farrell unashamedly plunders the whole history of architecture for motifs he can transform.

Architectural exhibitions tend to fall into the trap of providing too much to read. Farrell has no text panels at all, and just one line of caption for each set of photographs. He makes up for this by offering a tape-recorded tour of the kind familiar at art exhibitions, in which he himself talks you through selected projects. He lights his exhibits, including wall-hung models, with the same care and flair as the showcases in a Cartier window. It is populism pure and simple. But it is populism that has helped Farrell to win the commission to design (and find a site for) a possible new home for English National Opera.

● Terry Farrell at RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1 071-580 5533, until Dec 2

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Oxford finds Maradona guilty of inspirational genius



Maradona has found acceptance at last

I had him weighed up all right, but there was no real forgiveness in my handshake — only tinkers and tramps fight and make up — and young English gentlemen of course.

These words of Brendan Behan came back to me as I watched Diego Maradona in the Oxford Union on Monday night, accepting a gown, a mortarboard, the gift of a 200-year-old bible, and a scroll commemorating him as the Master Inspirer of Oxford Dreams.

Cheered to the echo, he was. Making up? Forgiveness? Nothing so small. This was adulation. And Maradona, a legend in a city of legends, was quite overwhelmed. He gleamed with joy, from his diamond-studded ear to his feet from his three-inch blond

streak to the fingertips of his left hand.

He balanced a football on his head. Someone threw him a golf ball and he played keepy-uppy with that, Gucci loafers and all. He did everything right. In short, he showed himself to be a thoroughly good sport.

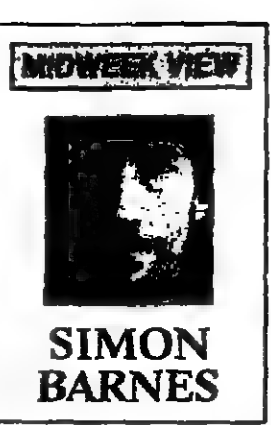
He had agreed to take questions from the floor from the students and, of course, it was not long before some had plucked up the courage to ask about that infamous Hand-of-God Incident, the handball goal by which England were knocked out of the 1986 World Cup. "Time has cured everything," Maradona said. "Cured? Perhaps. But nobody will ever forget it."

Along with all the other how-come-you're-so-great questions came the inevitable,

but crucially important one. Diego, what was your greatest ever goal? "Always I think about that famous match against England. And I think of that second goal..."

Of course. That impossible dribble from the half-way line past four English players. That resounding finish. Two goals that summed up Maradona, perhaps all of football, for all time. The first an instinctive, almost inadvertent bit of cheating. The second, a step beyond the merely sublime.

A year or so back, British television viewers voted it the finest goal in history. (Could Nayim's goal now be considered the only possible competition?) But the British viewers' almost masochistic choice of Maradona's goal was fascinating.



Forgiveness? But I suppose if you have to be beaten, it is better to be beaten either by a genius or a cheat. The one fills you with warming anger and self-righteousness; the other with a head-wagging admiration. The thing about genius

and about cheating is that, in a way, you can do nothing about either. Neither behaves according to the rules.

Maradona's cheating was not of the evil, potentially crippling kind, and nobody in the game came up with anything but formal condemnation of it. There is not a footballer in history who has never stuck out a hand, to control, to shove, to hold. These little things happen, of course they do. It is more than flesh and blood can stand. "In the heat of a game your hand goes off on its own," Maradona himself, so justly remarked. It is only when it is a crucial goal in a crucial game that people really notice it.

All the same, the goal placed a huge burden of guilt on Maradona. Was it the

guilt, the desire for atonement, that caused him to embark on that labyrinthine dribble, guilt that took him past man after man, guilt that inspired the final arrowing shot? Was it guilt that inspired that crowning passage of genius?

In two defining moments, just five minutes apart, Maradona said everything that could possibly be said about the equivocal nature of genius, and of football itself. For football is a game that shows up the flaws as well as the virtues of the people who play it: shows them in fact, in a preposterously high relief.

For football, like all other sports, is as fascinating to watch for the flaws it reveals, as for the moments of perfection these people can deliver. Cantona. Hick. Atherton.

Campese. Faldo. Schumacher. Navratilova: write your own list. The flaws are as compelling as the talents and, in a strange way, the flaws are an aspect of the talents.

Take the most obvious examples — the arrogance of Cantona, the competitive fire of Schumacher. They would not have committed their various crimes without such traits, but without them they would never have risen to such dizzy heights of achievement.

We must take our athletes all of a piece, and revel in them, slow to condemn, swift to enjoy. It has, for the English at least, been the other way round with Maradona. But at least they — we — have got there in the end. Master Inspirer of English Dreams.

Hendry aims to put Ferdinand under restraint

By Peter Ball

WITH only one point away from home so far, the reigning champions, Blackburn Rovers, could hardly be in worse fettle as they come face to face with Newcastle United, the favourites to lift their crown. On Sunday, they produced one of their worst performances of the season to lose at Everton. Tonight, they face a team reckoned by most to be the best in the country.

Newcastle will hope to seize the opportunity to go eight points clear at the top of the Premiership. "It's still a hard game for us," Kevin Keegan, their manager, said. "They are being written off, they are a little bit wounded, so they are a dangerous animal."

There could be no better place than St James' Park for Blackburn to rediscover the qualities which made them champions six months ago. "I think we'll play better than we did on Sunday," Colin Hendry, their Scottish international centre half, said.

"There was a great atmosphere at Everton as there will be at Newcastle. The most important thing is that we show we were worthy of winning the championship."

Much may depend on Hendry's ability to shackle Les Ferdinand on a night when comparisons between the Newcastle striker and Alan Shearer are inevitable. Blackburn can take some heart from the fact that in spite of his team's poor form, Hendry has been unaffected. Flowers, in goal, appears to have recovered from his early season fumbles and played brilliantly

at Goodison. "Whatever happens, playing against the best strikers is a challenge to be relished," Hendry said.

More worryingly for Shearer, and for Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, has been the side's inability to create enough goal-scoring chances.

That has not helped Shearer, who must be aware of the pressure for Ferdinand to be included in the England team, although the incumbent has been scoring regularly enough despite the lack of support.

"How do you assess strikers?" Hendry asked. "Over a few games, over a season, or over a whole career? Les is playing in a successful team at the moment, and he is getting more attempts on goal because they are creating them."

One encouragement for Blackburn is that Le Sax may return for his first full game since recovering from injury, giving them a left-sided player. Newcastle will again be

without Lee Clark. Steve Watson, the scorer of the last-gasp goal which beat Liverpool last Saturday, or Scott Sellars, will come in.

Four days after Juninho's debut, Middlesbrough have another outstanding international ready to play his first game of the season.

Bryan Robson, the player-manager, is pressing himself into service against Crystal Palace in the Coca-Cola Cup replay at the Riverside Stadium because he is without six first-team players, including Juninho and Barnaby.

The Coca-Cola Cup is the only trophy which has eluded Robson, who said yesterday: "I wish it was the final. I hoped I might get by without having to play this season, but I always suspected it might come to this."

"I know I'll be nervous — I always am. At least the butterflies will go once the whistle blows, and that's better than sitting on edge in the dug-out for 90 minutes."

Robson's last first-team appearance was in Middlesbrough's final home game of last season, when they celebrated promotion with a 2-1 win over Luton.

Ray Lewington, the Crystal Palace manager, is hoping his side recapture the form which enabled them to beat Leicester two weeks ago.

"If we do, we have a chance of causing an upset," he said. Unfortunately, his main strikers, Gareth Taylor, signed from Bristol Rovers, and Dougie Freedman, from Barnet, are cup-tied.



Hendry: maintained form



Griggs is on the ball at Nene Park, the state-of-the-art stadium where Cardiff City will be entertained in the FA Cup on Saturday. Photograph: Gill Allen

Rushden's gem lets money do the talking

Keith Pike on the modest millionaire behind the realisation of a football fantasy in a backwater of Northamptonshire

He could have been the man next door: small, undistinguished, his tie badly knotted. His shoes needed a bit of polish, too, as he strolled the deserted corridors of Nene Park last week. But then the man next door is unlikely to be as softly-spoken, charming or downright ordinary as Max Griggs. Nor as rich.

Joint 52nd and rising in The Sunday Times list of Britain's wealthiest individuals, he has a personal fortune estimated at around £200 million. In football, where money talks loudest, Griggs could shout for England. Yet he prefers to whisper for Rushden and Diamonds, and if the locals had their way, he would have letters after his name as well as millions. On Saturday, his legacy to the sport, and his community, will be granted a much wider audience.

When Cardiff City were paired with Rushden in the first round, an FA Cup tie of traditional contrasts was born: big-city barons against rural upstarts; former winners versus a team never before

past the qualifying rounds. And a club with real ambition taking on one hoping to make a killing... Cardiff, after all, need the money.

When the Welsh club and his followers arrive in east Northamptonshire, they can be excused a sharp, disbelieving intake of breath. Small and very nearly perfectly formed, the construction of a two-tier East Stand will complete the development. Nene Park is a modern marvel of football stadium architecture.

From the restaurants and banqueting suite to the marble staircase in reception, from the state-of-the-art gymnasium to the immaculate pitch, this is the club that Max's millions — eight and counting — built.

Griggs's dream was sparked by a telephone call four years ago, when Rushden Town were going nowhere fast in the Beazer Homes League midland divi-

sion, and, a couple of miles north, Irthlingborough Diamonds were going nowhere even faster, in the United Counties League. "It was Tony Jones, the chairman of Irthlingborough," Griggs recalled. "He was coming up to retirement and asked me if I was interested in becoming involved." Smart move. But Griggs said no.

Griggs, a Northampton Town supporter for 30 years and director between 1979 and 1985, had a vision, though. A merger. Cue much nashing of teeth. Football passions may not run but in Northamptonshire, but the blue touch-paper of local pride was lit. The prize, however, was too big to resist. Hostilities ceased, and in 1992, Rushden and Diamonds was born.

The resources, and the will, were at hand. When he retired as chairman of the R Griggs Group earlier this year — his son, Stephen, is now in charge

— Max Griggs left a firm producing around 220,000 pairs of shoes, boots and footwear fashion a week, with full order books and an annual turnover of £250 million. A family business, started by his grandfather in 1901, has, thanks in no small measure to the skinhead culture of the 1970s and his liking for Dr Martens boots, developed into a hugely successful company.

It is easy to be cynical, to perceive a lust for power and even greater riches, or a desire for recognition. Easy, and wrong. For Griggs, the merger was no more than an opportunity to put something back. "I never really wanted yachts in Monte Carlo," he said. "My roots are here. The challenge has been the creation of the club, and that's where I get my buzz. It is more than just football now, it is seeing people enjoying the facilities. And it is fun."

Griggs said he is happy,

through the company, to "provide that little bit extra" for the club. Hence the soccer skills schools and supporters' coaches laid on for home matches. Supporters in wheelchairs just happen to have the best view in the stadium, too. Of course, Griggs could write out a blank cheque to Roger Ashby, the team manager, and buy a team that would sail through the football pyramid, but "we don't want to do anything obscene". In any case, Rushden are doing nicely enough, their 5-1 win over Stafford Rangers on Saturday leaving them three points clear in the Beazer premier division, with games in hand.

The targets are moderate. A place in the Vauxhall Conference by 1997, and a place in the Football League by 2000. "Reaching the first division would be nice," Griggs said. "It all gets a bit serious in the Premier League." If he walked away tomorrow, the club would continue to thrive. He does not intend to. "My father had the fun of the business," he said. "This is my baby."

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THE TIMES

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If more than one valid claim is made for a prize, the money will be shared equally among the claimants.

If you did not receive a gamecard call 0171-867 0404, between 9.30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

GAME B PRIZE WINNERS

The £275 prize (FEE) was shared by: Mr E Dixon of Marlborough, Wilt; Mr M O'Hanlon of Sawbridgeworth, Herts; Mr C Bowmen of London N4; and Mr J Kearney of Barrow on Soar, Leics.

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If you reveal all the letters of any word from Game B of your Scrabble gamecard, claim your prize by calling the Scrabble hotline on 0171-867 0406 today, between 9.30am and 5pm. Have your gamecard with you when you claim. Late claims will not be accepted.

THESE ARE THE NUMBERS TO SCRATCH OFF GAME B ON YOUR TIMES CARD

123 140

SPEAR'S GAMES

Leeds try to tempt Brolin

By Peter Ball

TOMAS BROLIN, the Sweden international forward, flew back to Italy yesterday to consider a transfer to Leeds United after two days of talks with the Yorkshire club. Leeds are hoping to agree a fee with Brolin's club, Parma, the joint leaders of the Italian league.

"There is nothing concrete to report yet," Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, said before Brolin left yesterday. "I think the fact that Tomas is here is as surprising to him as to anybody else, and he has not had a lot of time to think about it."

Leeds do not expect Brolin to reach a decision before the weekend. If he does decide to move, a fee of something over £5 million is likely. "If this were a five-round fight, we have completed the first round and are ahead on points, but there is a lot of hard bargaining still to be done," Bill Fotherby, the Leeds managing director, said.

If the knock-out occurs, it would represent a significant coup for Leeds, who have been searching, without success, for a forward to play with Tony Yeboah, the striker, for several months. It is the second time they have approached Parma.

Leeds entered into long negotiations for the club's Colombia forward, Faustino Asprilla, which finally broke down.

Brolin may be the better option. He came to prominence as the outstanding discovery in an otherwise limited Sweden team in the 1990 World Cup, and was a member of the more successful team which reached the semi-finals of the European Championships two years later. In 1994 he scored three goals in the World Cup finals helping Sweden to take third place.

He has been on the fringe of the Parma first team this season after recovering from a broken ankle, but his finishing and eagerness to run at defenders would add an extra dimension to a hard-working, but limited, Leeds side. He favours playing behind the leading striker, but his quality would also take some of the responsibility off Yeboah, and raise some question about the futures of Brian Deane, David White and Rod Wallace.

Ian Rush, the Liverpool striker, has pulled out of the Wales squad for next week's European Championship qualifier against Albania, in Tirana through injury. Rush, who

was left out of the team named by manager Bobby Gould last week, was expected to make the journey as a coaching assistant.

However, he has now withdrawn from the trip. "I have a back and ankle injury," he said. "I've spoken to the club and to Bobby. He has asked me to join the squad until Monday to help out, but I will not be travelling with them when they go because the journey would not be good for my back."

Everton hope to end a 12-match ban on their striker, Duncan Ferguson, which was imposed by the Scottish Football Association (SFA), at an appeals tribunal in Glasgow today. Joe Royle, the Everton manager, and his chairman, Peter Johnson, visited Ferguson yesterday at Barlinnie Prison, in Glasgow, where the former Dundee United and Rangers player is serving a three-month sentence for an on-field assault.

They are hoping the SFA lift the ban, 11 matches of which remain, or allow it to run concurrently with the prison sentence. "I feel very strongly that Duncan should be only punished once," Johnson said.

Moulard affronted as Woosnam backs out

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN SHENZHEN, CHINA

BAD BACKS are the bane of golfers — and tournament organisers. On Sunday, Ian Woosnam pulled out of the World Cup, which starts at the Mission Hills club here tomorrow, saying that his back was bad after a last round of 77 in the Alfred Dunhill Masters in Jakarta.

Heuten, sponsoring the World Cup for the last time, are also coming to the end of a three-year deal with the Welshman to play in their events and were diplomatically sympathetic. Tony Roosenburg, the tournament organiser, said: "We're very disappointed."

"Ian's been a great supporter of ours over many years and he's never, ever pulled out of a Heineken event before. We all know flying's no good for backs and at this stage we have to believe the ailment's genuine."

Mark Moulard, Woosnam's would-be partner, was less charitable. "Bad back? He's got a bad head and too fat a wallet. He's let Wales down, he's let me down, he's let his supporters down."

Moulard finished second in Jakarta and with £1 million in prize-money on offer this week he had visions of the Welsh doing rather nicely. As he said, Woosnam — who was to be paid a sum in the region of £50,000 just to appear — is not a bad man to have on your side. "Any time you play with Woosie, you think you've got half a chance if you can play half-decent yourself. In Jakarta he was still eight under par with four holes to play, so he wasn't playing badly, I rang him as soon as I heard he was going home but he said he'd made up his mind and I'd be better off playing with someone else."

Woosnam, who is still scheduled to play in the Dunlop Phoenix tournament, the richest in Japan, in Miyazaki next week, may have a little dent made in his wallet if the PGA European Tour tournament committee decides that his late withdrawal was an embarrassment to the Tour.

Meanwhile, Phillip Price, who partnered Woosnam in this event in 1991 and 1994, was heading for China as the latest of late replacements.

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Morris is pulled up by Sorovaki, the Fijian centre, as he drives for the line at Stradey Park yesterday

BY GERALD DAYTON

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOILING CORRESPONDENT

on 0181-725 5096.

Times world championship book

All games of the world title match are now available with commentary by Raymond Keene in a *Times* book. *World Chess Championship: Kasparov v Anand* (Rassford £9.99). Credit card orders on 01376 327901 (please quote S/665).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on *Saturday*.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Hermann - Brun, East Germany 1974. It looks as if Black might be in trouble as his king is horribly exposed and his rook, bishop and pawn are all threatened. How did he turn the tables with a swift counter-attack?

Solution on page 46

Blood sample clouds Double Trigger's Melbourne Cup failure **Vintage Crop applauded in defeat**

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
IN MELBOURNE

A LIFELESS run in controversial circumstances by Double Trigger was more than compensated by another inspirational effort from Vinage Crop, the Irish challenger, who barnstormed his way into third behind Dorianus after a tartly start in the Foster's Melbourne Cup here yesterday.

Double Trigger's attempt to register Britain's first victory in Australia's most famous race almost came to nothing even before his foot on the Flemington racetrack. His participation, after two "irregular" blood tests, was secured only after Mark Johnston, his Middleham-based trainer, gave an assurance that no medication had been recently administered to the Ascot Gold Cup winner.

The controversy might have hinted at what was to follow.

BIG-RACE

Gong: heavy

4:20AM POSTER'S MELBOURNE CUP
[Horse #] [Time] [Weight]

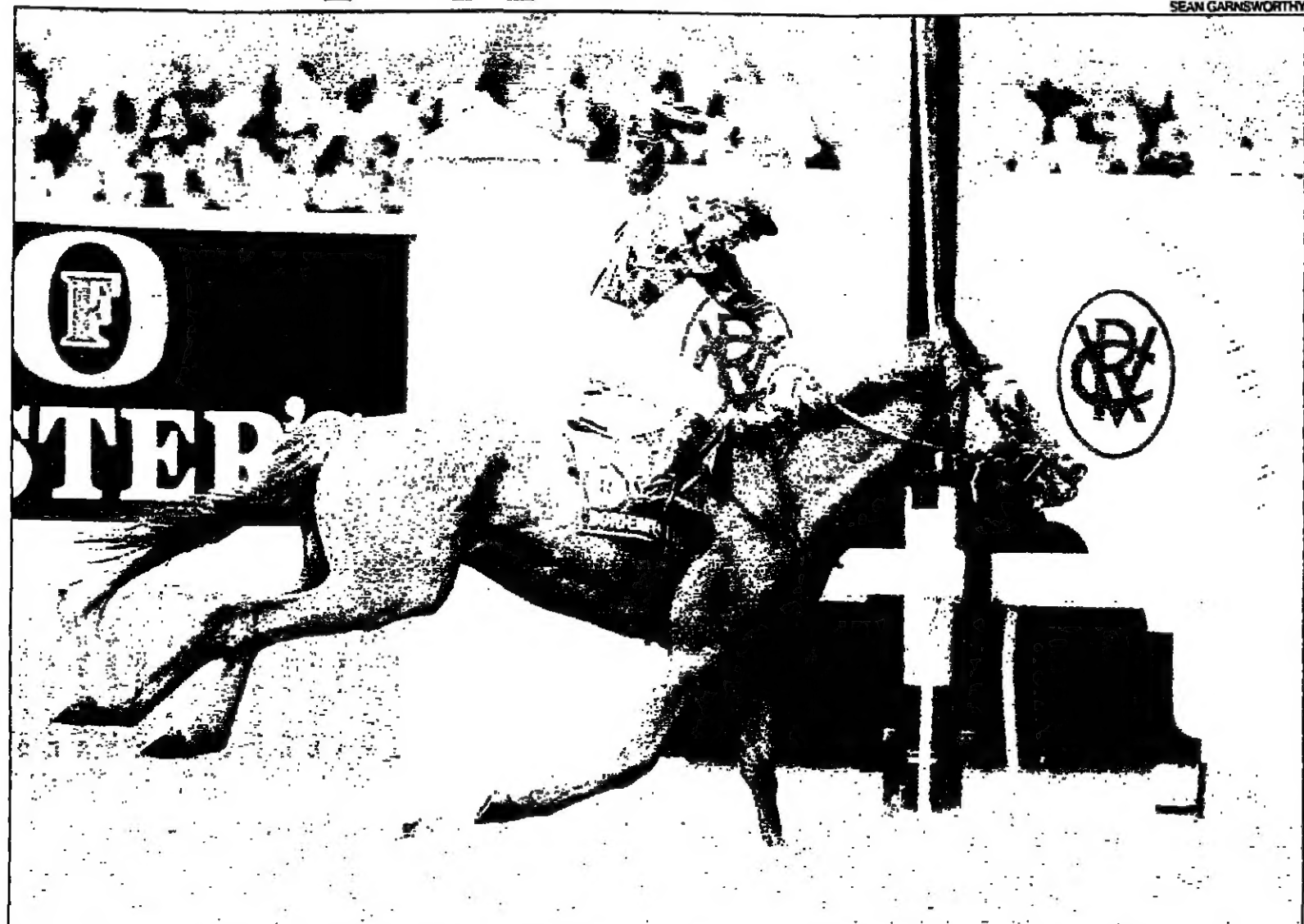
1. DORRUMUS ID Oliver, 10-11 2. Nocthin
[Horse #] [Time] [Weight] 3. Vantage
[Horse #] [Time] [Weight] 4. Nk Kincane, 8-11, 4. Quick Ransome [Horse #]
[Horse #] [Time] [Weight] 5. Balmor All (6m) ALSO RAN! Coachwood (5m)
Deafun At (6m) Sonnet (7m), It's All In (5m)
16m: Duplan (8m), Buchone (10m), Count
Down (11m), Four Ace Chosen (12m) Yes
Indeed (13m), Electra (14m), Jeune
[Horse #] [Time] [Weight] 15. The Phantom Chace (16m),
Double Trigger (17m), Double Take (18m),
Dashing (19m), Sir Kings (20m), Stony Bay
[Horse #] [Time] [Weight] 21m: AFR Desert Chu, Gorsep,
[Horse #] [Time] [Weight] 24. Nk L. Freedman Tote (m) AS1
[Horse #] [Time] [Weight] 2930 340 4.00, 3.00 10 DF 9320
SF 9410 10 3min 27 beat

for Double Trigger laboured from the opening strides of this two-mile contest. So, too, did Vintage Crop, who, in breaking slowly, squandered any advantage offered by his low draw.

The ensuing scramble for a prominent position was not kind to Michael Kinane. Ridding Vintage Crop here for the third consecutive year, Kinane had little option but to take his mount well back in the 21-runner field.

If Kinane was surprised to find himself bringing up the rear, there was, as he later confirmed, no choice. Vintage Crop seemed so uneasy on the saturated turf that his owner, Michael Smurfit, later conceded: "When they passed the winning post on the first circuit I thought the horse had seriously broken down."

Vintage Crop still trailed



Oliver acclaims the impressive four-length victory of Doriemus in the Foster's Melbourne Cup at Flemington yesterday

the field at halfway, where Double Trigger was in close contention. However, any aspirations of victory had been expensively bought. Jason Weaver, who rode the colt, worked hard to retain his place as the field approached the sweeping turn for home. Suddenly, Weaver's green and red silks, readily identifiable by their prominence, were nowhere to be seen as Double Trigger was swamped by the tide swelling around him.

By this late stage, Vintage Crop had grabbed hold of his bid. His initial surge promised little more than the anonymity of a respectable finish, yet his flight was such that he threatened an improbable victory two furlongs from the finish. It was his misfortune that

Doremus, a rapidly improving stayer, chose the moment to claim fame. The five-year-old's telling spurt punctured the resistance of Nothin' Leica Dane, a winner here as recently as Saturday, and just as certainly ensured there was no way back for the Irish hope. He prevailed by four lengths, with Vintage Crop failing by a neck. The smallest of the Nothin' Leica Dane, Frankie Destro, aboard the outsider Bullwhisk, threatened briefly three furlongs out before fading into tenth.

Dermot Weld, whose handling of the fragile eight-year-old has been exemplary, was left in an emotional vacuum. "He just didn't jump from the stalls and ran into traffic

problems early on and again down the back straight." Wells reflected. The plan was to sell in fifth or sixth place but Michael [Kinane] had no choice. He said he would have won if he had been able to get into a good position. Taking nothing away from the winner but I am very proud of my horse. He has the heart of a lion."

Smurfit later revealed that the challenge was undertaken on his urgings. "Dermot didn't want to bring the horse back this year after he ran poorly in the Irish St Leger. But I think Vintage Crop ran better today than he did when he won two years ago. It's hard to see him coming back a fourth time but we'll wait and see how he is in the spring."

Even in this gallant defeat, Weld and Smurfit will reflect that Vintage Crop proved himself self the best animal in the 135th renewal of this A\$4 million handicap. No horse of his age has prevailed, and none has carried more than his nine stone to victory since Rain Lover in 1969. Yet Vintage Crop conceded 9lb to Darius and a massive 26lb to Noddy Leica Dams.

It is a titan among stayers, a fact local horsemen expected to declare of Double Trigger who started favourite. Johnston was visibly disturbed by his seventeenth place. "I was very unhappy early on," he said. "I could see Jasper [Weaver] pushing him, slapping him down the shoulder." The ground was also soft

when he ran badly in France but that can't be the only explanation. The horse seems perfectly OK. I know Jason eased him down but he hardly looks as though he's had a race."

Although Doriemus, ridden with great dash by Damien Oliver, landed a third Melbourne Cup victory for his trainer, Les Freedman, European winners will remember the race for Vintage Cup's heartbreaking third place. It was instantly described as the finest effort from a horse not to win the Melbourne Cup.

Noble though the compliment is, Weld will not be impressed. He heard the very same line when Vintage Cup ran seventh after a troubled preparation 12 months ago.

Testing time for Johnston as he waits for results

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

MARK JOHNSTON faces an anxious wait until the results of a sample taken from Double Trigger shed some light on the reason for the horse's "irregular" blood test just hours before the Melbourne Cup.

Johnston, who professed himself "very concerned" with the development, said he could think of no reason for the alarm. A blood sample taken from Double Trigger was evaluated some two hours before

Johnston was summoned to the pre-parade ring 35 minutes before the race to be questioned by stewards. The rapid screening process, which does not identify substances, indicates to Johnston that illegal substances are present in the blood or urine, which will take time to allow for greater scrutiny.

"At one stage serious," Johnson minutes before the seen deep in com news of the test known what to won the race. So happy, or worri hanging over hi this sort of th Australia but I a that Double Tri given any medic know what hea although I'm pr

was looking very
said. Twenty
race he could be
emulation on the
"I wouldn't have
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er, chief steward of the Racing Club (VRC), would state other than to say that the test was inconclusive. "The vet doesn't know what's caused it," he said. "We must wait for the results of the urine analysis." Johnston assured us the horse received no treatment at all and amount to nothing, "false alarms before." He said Double Trigger's \$2,000-\$3,000 fee did not influence the

In allowing him to take part. It could have been most unfortunate if the degree of irregularity been such as to precipitate Double Trigger's withdrawal.

Pre-race testing was introduced last week as a measure against the use of cocktails designed to improve performance. Horses are randomly selected for testing. The procedure already highlighted discrepancies from the norm. Thresholds have to be exceeded, although explanations have been sought for irregular readings.

[illegible]

2.50 HIGHLAND FINANCE HURDLE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANICAP CHASE (£3,701; 2m 1f) (3)

1-324 DR ROCKET 11 (B,F,B,S) 8 Dutton 10-11-10 Philip Hughes (C) 67
 2-054 VICKEY 7 (F,S) 8 Alder 7-11-3 P Garry (C) 67
 3-205- PAMSTAR 205 (B,S) P Hobbs 7-11-9 G Torrey (C) 68

G-S Ramcar, 7-4 Dr Boodle, 9-4 Vicosa.

3.20 HALLOWEEN NOVICES CHASE (£3,826; 2m 4f) (5)

1-132 BERTYONE 14 (F,S) K Bailey 6-11-8 J Osborne 68
 2-P-12 60 LALLISTO 16 (B,F,S,S) J O'Shea 6-11-3 M A Fitzgerald 76
 3-121 GOLDEN MAJALMO 11 (F,F) F Jordan 9-11-3 J Linder 76
 4-P19 MASTER WYNN SSPF (S) 8 Alder 7-11-3 D Bridgewater 76
 5-SF-C WYNN WIZZER 32 (B,F) J Mullins 6-11-3 S Curran (C) 71

6-4 Remyra, 7-4 Go Boodle, 7-2 Golden Majalmo, 10-2 Master Wynn, 16-1 Our Cow

3.50 COLD ASH NOVICES HANICAP HURDLE (£2,824; 3m 110yd) (4)

1-903 ERYAN ROAD 23 (J,H) 11-11-12 D Bridgewater 68
 2-100-2 DUNDEER WARRIOR 11 (F) P Thomson Jones 6-11-6 M A Fitzgerald 68
 3-0-4 NORTON 10 M Blatched 5-11-10 D Bridgewater 68
 4-01 YESS MAW 8 (F) Alex H Knight 6-11-13 (6wd) J F Tally 56

7-4 Sea Rag, 2-1 Dundeeer Warrior, 11-4 Yess Ma, 7-2 Norton

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P. Hobbs, 9 winners from 62 runners, 14.5%; K. Bailey, 6 from 33, 11.2%; F. Thomson Jones, 6 from 78, 10.5%; M. Gazeley, 5 from 49, 12.2%; J. Thomson Jones, 3 from 30, 25.4%. Only quality jockeys.

JOCKEYS: J. Osborne, 37 winners from 147 rides, 25.4%; G. McArthur, 11 from 71, 15.5%; M. A. Fitzgerald, 7 from 70, 10.0%. Only quality riders.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Place 1.40 Sakeen, 2.10 Jernsylvethorn, 2.40 Saddy Sober, Sound Trick

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.40 Silvotz. 1.10 Present Situation. 1.40 Catch The Lights. 2.10 Wingnut. 2.40 Saddy Sober. 3.10 Jareab. 3.40 Dance So Suite.

The Times Private Handicap Handicapper's top rating:
3.40 DANCE SO SUITE.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 12.40 MR PROSTY (nap). 3.10 La Brief. 3.40 River Keen.

GOING: STANDARD

DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.40 ROTHER APPLICANT HANDICAP (Div I £2,267; 7f) (13 runners)

101	0071	SET THE FASHION 8 (N.C.D.F.S.S.) D Williams	6-10-3 (Ten)	R Sharpeless
102	1659	CONFESSION 6 (D.F.S.) A Moore	5-10-8	A Lakenham 15
103	0000	MLOS 39 (C.D.F.S.) J Naughton	4-9-9	T Ashley
104	3040	MR PROSTY 7 (O.D.V.) P Jones	3-9-7	E Elizabeth Turner
105	1455	KISS ME NOW 24 (S) C Miles	2-9-7	H Newman
106	0020	PARADISE DANCER 29 (C.B.S.P.) Rempstone	8-4-0	D Swanney
107	0033	SUNLIGHT 16 (W.F.M.) M Heskin-Hale	5-4-12	J Rowe (2)
108	1386	PART KNICK 66 (J.G.F.S.) B Pomeroy	4-4-7	C Scudliffe
109	0054	BELLEVUE LAKE 21 (P) A. Crowley	4-4-7	Joneses Walker (3)
110	0006	ASTROLOGY 44 S Knight	3-1-13	M Butler (1)
111	4500	ACHILLESVILLE 45 H Strong	3-1-10	T Peake (3)
112	0510	MYSTIC WIND 15 (B.L.P.) Perra	4-7-7	C Lowndes (2)
113	5000	PART OF JACKS 15 (M.D.) G Wilson	5-7-7	Reamed Moody (2)

3-1 Set The Fashion, 7-1 Confezzion, 4-1 Belleguene Lake, 5-1 Mr Prosty, 5-Prudent's Dance, 7-1 Astrology, 10-1 Mystical Wind, 12-1 Achilles

1.10 ROTHER APPRENTICE HANDICAP (Div II £2,263; 7f) (12)

2291	0291	OLD MOON 101 (O.U.F.S.S.) P Smith	4(8)-1	A Lakenham 1
2300	0000	PRESENT SITUATION 10 (C.D.F.S.) J Ford	Hammercup	4-5-7

2.10 MEDWAY CLAIMING STAKES

(2-Y-O: £2,067: 6f) (9)

491	6002	NEED ACROUSE 11	1 Yearling - 3		A Walton (9)
492	0102	GOULDEN 16	7 Orphans 8-10		Emme (Orphan) (9)
493	0200	CASHMOR CUP 18	1 Orphan 9-2		Graham (7) (9)
494	2545	MOI D'OU 19	1 Orphan 9-2		P. Rastoin (7) (9)
495	0200	JOSEPHETTORO 11	10 Y 1 Bayed 8-5		A Day (7) (9)
496	00	RIVERE ROUGE 137	27 Zoned 8-4		N Varley (7) (9)
497	2538	NIGHTBIRD 29	6f Orphan 8-2		M. Sain (7) (9)
498	2538	WESTER 38	1 Orphan 8-2		G. Dufresne (7)
499	2202	SANT ROSALINA 22	1 Hb 8-0		G. Bardwell (9)

5-4 Galbreath; 3-1 Rapt Arcade; 9-2 Moe Content; 5-1 Saint Arcadia; 9-1 Wingard; 17 Janssenbach; 25-1 Rising Storm

2.40 HOBBSONS PUBLISHING PLC RATINGS

RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (£2,713: 6f) (11)

501	6-40	VLADIMIROFF 21	8 Hb 5-0		M Henry (9) (2)
502	0000	CHOCOLATE FING 493	9 Place 3-4-0		5 Standers (1)
503	0000	VAL VAL 16	1 Orphan 3-4-0		5 Standers (1)
504	0000	IL FURETTO 81	Crp 3-0-0		N Varley (9) (2)
505	2200	NORTHERN BIRD 10	1 Orphan 3-4-0		P. Rastoin (7) (9)
506	0000	ROYAL 18	1 Orphan 3-4-0		J.D. Smith (9) (2)
507	0000	DAMONDA BANGLE 373	C 3 Year 3-4-0		R. Chapman (9)
508	0000	FALLAL 9	6 Nicheville 3-4-0		G. Dufresne (9)
509	0000	ROYAL 29	6f Orphan 3-4-0		C. Dufresne (9)
510	0000	SHARP HOLLY 29	3 Banned 3-4-0		W. Hennessy (9)
511	6500	SOUND THICK 36	10 C 3 Year 3-4-0		S. Wilmshurst (9)

5-4 Galbreath; 3-1 Rapt Arcade; 9-2 Moe Content; 5-1 Saint Arcadia; 9-1 Wingard; 17 Janssenbach; 25-1 Rising Storm

3.10 SALAMANDER BOOKS HANDICAP

(£2,877: 2m) (14)

601	0000	JANARO 25	(2,0-0-0) 5 Hb 4-9-10		5 Wilmshurst (9)
602	0000	WINDY 26	(0,0-2,0-0) 6 Hb 5-9-9		5 Standers (6)
603	2223	REVENUE 11	5 2 Year 4-9-7		A Day (7) (9)
604	0000	WINDY 26	(0,0-2,0-0) 6 Hb 5-9-9		G. Dufresne (12)
605	0000	UPPER MOOT CLAY 55	(0,0,0-0) 3 Crbm 5-9-0		5 Standers (6)

606	0000	DOODINGTON PLAIN 45	8 Hb 3-0-0		M Henry (9) (2)
607	0000	KEVER GOLF 147	(2,0-0-0) 3-4-8		R. Cockburn (11)
608	0000	OLDLANDS LOUVER 48	8 Hb 3-0-0		M. Hennessy (9)
609	0000	WINTA'S HOTSPOT 6	10 Y 3 Year 3-4-0		M. Hennessy (9)
610	0000	WINTA'S HOTSPOT 6	10 Y 3 Year 3-4-0		M. Hennessy (9)
611	5130	COLENDRE 4	(0,0,0,0-0,0) 5 Shetland 3-4-0		N. Varley (9) (2)

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY

Ludlow

Going: firm

1.15 (2m 100 yds) 1. Nottinghamdownshire (P 11-12) 2.15 (2m 115 yds) 2. Cowell Slipcase (P 17-4) 3. Roger De Mowbray (25-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. T. Forster 10.00 6. J. C. Duff 21.10

2.45 (3m 100 yds) 1. Fairy Park (L. J. O'Connell 10.00) 2. Trust Good (10-1) 3. Barntree (4-9) 4. nra. 20.00 5. The Duke of Gloucester (10-1) 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

3.25 (3m 110 yds) 1. Euxine (G. Torrey, 10-1) 2. G. G. (10-1) 3. The Duke of Gloucester (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. The Duke of Gloucester (10-1) 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

4.15 (3m 120 yds) 1. Golden Madras (J. O'Connell 10.00) 2. Super Sharp (10-11) 3. nra. 20.00 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

5.15 (3m 130 yds) 1. Ripples (W. Worthington, 10-1) 2. C. H. (10-1) 3. C. H. (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

6.15 (3m 140 yds) 1. L. J. O'Connell (10-1) 2. C. H. (10-1) 3. C. H. (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

7.15 (3m 150 yds) 1. L. J. O'Connell (10-1) 2. C. H. (10-1) 3. C. H. (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

8.15 (3m 160 yds) 1. L. J. O'Connell (10-1) 2. C. H. (10-1) 3. C. H. (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

9.15 (3m 170 yds) 1. L. J. O'Connell (10-1) 2. C. H. (10-1) 3. C. H. (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

10.15 (3m 180 yds) 1. L. J. O'Connell (10-1) 2. C. H. (10-1) 3. C. H. (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

11.15 (3m 190 yds) 1. L. J. O'Connell (10-1) 2. C. H. (10-1) 3. C. H. (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

12.15 (3m 200 yds) 1. L. J. O'Connell (10-1) 2. C. H. (10-1) 3. C. H. (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

Sedgefield

Going: good to firm

1.00 (2m 100 yds) 1. Jones, 6-1 2. The Duke of Gloucester (10-1) 3. Barntree (4-9) 4. nra. 20.00 5. T. Forster 10.00 6. J. C. Duff 21.10

2.00 (2m 110 yds) 1. Fairy Park (L. J. O'Connell 10.00) 2. Trust Good (10-1) 3. Barntree (4-9) 4. nra. 20.00 5. The Duke of Gloucester (10-1) 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

3.00 (2m 120 yds) 1. Euxine (G. Torrey, 10-1) 2. G. G. (10-1) 3. The Duke of Gloucester (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. The Duke of Gloucester (10-1) 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

4.00 (2m 130 yds) 1. Golden Madras (J. O'Connell 10.00) 2. Super Sharp (10-11) 3. nra. 20.00 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

5.00 (2m 140 yds) 1. Ripples (W. Worthington, 10-1) 2. C. H. (10-1) 3. C. H. (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

6.00 (2m 150 yds) 1. L. J. O'Connell (10-1) 2. C. H. (10-1) 3. C. H. (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

7.00 (2m 160 yds) 1. L. J. O'Connell (10-1) 2. C. H. (10-1) 3. C. H. (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

8.00 (2m 170 yds) 1. L. J. O'Connell (10-1) 2. C. H. (10-1) 3. C. H. (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

9.00 (2m 180 yds) 1. L. J. O'Connell (10-1) 2. C. H. (10-1) 3. C. H. (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

10.00 (2m 190 yds) 1. L. J. O'Connell (10-1) 2. C. H. (10-1) 3. C. H. (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

11.00 (2m 200 yds) 1. L. J. O'Connell (10-1) 2. C. H. (10-1) 3. C. H. (10-1) 4. nra. 20.00 5. nra. 20.00 6. nra. 20.00 7. Duff 21.10

RICHARD

Nag: B. (1.00 w)

Neat best (1.20 N)

[illegible][illegible]

614-000 BENTLEYWAY WAY TUE (C) 8:30 9:00 9:17-12... N Adams 14
 7:12 Uppor Mount Club, 541 Jacobus, 614 Myers & Sorensen, 71-12 Brev. Dordrecht
 Flyers, 8:1 Cadenotte, 10:1 Meyer Golf Club, 12:1 all-star

3.40 THAMES HANDICAP (#3,725 1m 20) (12)

1-2-32 **MABLE JUNCTION** 18 (8) Lord Humberston 4-10-0 J Hartman 8
 SOUTH EASTERN PRIDE 23 (C)J,F,H K Hollingsworth 4-9-13

5-1000 **ABLE COUNTRY** 41 (C) 9 J Humberston 5-9-11... P Rizec 7
 4-040 **KENTHURD** 15 (C) C Bay 5-9-11... D Cuchman 2
 11 **WARR** 22 (C) 11 B Edwards 5-9-11... A Prichard (S) 11
 6-040 **ONE OFF THE RAIL** 49 (C) J Humberston 5-8-4 Candy Haines 11
 7-050 **RIVER KENZ** 22 (C) J Humberston 5-8-3... M Woods 3
 8-000 **SCAMANDYST** 15 (C) 5 U 2-6-4... A Day (S) 11
 9-050 **RAIDERS** 22 (C) 11 B Edwards 5-8-3... D Cuchman 2
 10-050 **SMOKE** 22 (C) 11 B Edwards 5-8-3... D Cuchman 2
 12-000 **SIN OLIVER** 43 (8) 9 Pearce 7-7-7... M Beard (S) 12
 14-11 Molyg; Jackson, 31-10-0 J Humberston 5-8-3... D Cuchman 2
 5-11-11 Molyg; Jackson, 31-10-0 J Humberston 5-8-3... D Cuchman 2

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: W Jervis, 8 winners from 31 starters, 21.6%; G Bowers, 5
 from 20, 25%; C Cole, 25 winners from 111 starters, 22.5%;
 21-11-11 Molyg; Jackson, 31-10-0 J Humberston 5-8-3... D Cuchman 2

JOCKEYS: M Humberston, 8 winners from 42 rides, 21.4%; Emma
 10 from 145, 6.9%; 21-11-11 Molyg; Jackson, 31-10-0 J Humberston 5-8-3... D Cuchman 2

Outfield, 10 from 144, 6.9%; Mable Junction, 3 from 10, 30%.

WORCESTER														
THUNDER														
1.00 Sprung Rhythm					2.30 CHERRYHUNT (nap)									
1.30 Act Of Parliament					3.00 Tykevrouer									
2.00 Tejano Gold					3.30 Gaveaskar									
					4.00 Flying Gunner									
GUIDE TO ON-LINE RACECARD														
101 121343 6000 TIMES 13 (P/F/S/S) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68														
<p>Racecard Number Go figure time if - full P 101 121343 6000 TIMES 13 (P/F/S/S) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 down - 2 - stepped up - 1 - nudged down S - scratched/other horse's name - odds last 101 121343 6000 TIMES 13 (P/F/S/S) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 E - Elected - C - course name D - distance - W - course and distance</p>					<p>winner BF - beaten favorite in latest race S - scratched/other horse's name - odds last 101 121343 6000 TIMES 13 (P/F/S/S) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 down - 2 - stepped up - 1 - nudged down S - scratched/other horse's name - odds last 101 121343 6000 TIMES 13 (P/F/S/S) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 E - Elected - C - course name D - distance - W - course and distance</p>									
GOING GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)					SIS									
1.00 RAYBURN 300 SERIES NOVICES HURDLE														
(22,688 - 2m) (10 runners)														
<p>1 401212 SPRING RHYTHM 18 (P/F) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 2 APRIL WILLOW 12 (M/F) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 3 25 BIRCHING 18 (P/F) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 4 402402 BASSACALLY 252 (M/F) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 5 402402 BASSACALLY 252 (M/F) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 6 402402 SCARLET FRAMBLER 384 (P/F) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 7 234343 STORM RHYTHM 18 (M/F) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 8 234343 STORM RHYTHM 18 (M/F) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 9 234343 STORM RHYTHM 18 (M/F) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 10 YONGHURP 2022P 445 (P/F) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68</p>					<p>winner BF - beaten favorite in latest race S - scratched/other horse's name - odds last 101 121343 6000 TIMES 13 (P/F/S/S) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 down - 2 - stepped up - 1 - nudged down S - scratched/other horse's name - odds last 101 121343 6000 TIMES 13 (P/F/S/S) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 E - Elected - C - course name D - distance - W - course and distance</p>									
BETTING: 2-1 Spring Rhythm, 3-1 April Willow, 4-1 Birch, 9-1 Storm Rhythm, 16-1 Storm Rhythm, 20-1 Yonhurgurp					1962: Sailing Arounded - COURSE WATERLOGGED									
FORM FOCUS														
<p>SPRING RHYTHM last November 151 in 6-runner hurdle race at Exeter (2m) 31 good in 4 runner on previous 2m APRIL WILLOW 22nd 4th of 6 to Simply Delightful in 4-runner hurdle at Worcester (2m) 31 good in 4 runner on previous 2m BIRCHING 2nd 1st of 6 to Simply Delightful in 4-runner hurdle at Worcester (2m) 31 good in 4 runner on previous 2m BASSACALLY 252 4th of 6 to Simply Delightful in 4-runner hurdle at Worcester (2m) 31 good in 4 runner on previous 2m SCARLET FRAMBLER 384 4th of 6 to Simply Delightful in 4-runner hurdle at Worcester (2m) 31 good in 4 runner on previous 2m STORM RHYTHM 18 4th of 6 to Simply Delightful in 4-runner hurdle at Worcester (2m) 31 good in 4 runner on previous 2m YONGHURP 2022P 445 4th of 6 to Simply Delightful in 4-runner hurdle at Worcester (2m) 31 good in 4 runner on previous 2m</p>					<p>SCARLET FRAMBLER 384 4th of 6 to Simply Delightful in 4-runner hurdle at Worcester (2m) 31 good in 4 runner on previous 2m STORM RHYTHM 18 4th of 6 to Simply Delightful in 4-runner hurdle at Worcester (2m) 31 good in 4 runner on previous 2m YONGHURP 2022P 445 4th of 6 to Simply Delightful in 4-runner hurdle at Worcester (2m) 31 good in 4 runner on previous 2m</p>									
1.30 GLYNWED ASSENT FRENCHS CHASE														
(Limited handicap, 24,824 - 2m 7f) (4 runners)														
<p>1 201255 ARTHURS MINSTREL 200 (P/F) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 2 402143 ARTHURS MINSTREL 200 (P/F) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 3 30232P COCKNEY BOY 200 (P/F) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 4 201255 ARTHURS MINSTREL 200 (P/F) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68</p>					<p>winner BF - beaten favorite in latest race S - scratched/other horse's name - odds last 101 121343 6000 TIMES 13 (P/F/S/S) (M/F) D Racecard 9 Hall 13.0 ... S West 01 68 down - 2 - stepped up - 1 - nudged down S - scratched/other horse's name - odds last 101 121343 6000 TIMES 13</p>									

An update on the Crusades

He is confident he has "got" the dressing-room. "The politics has gone and this really looks like being a fresh start. There used to be groups within the team but people have



"I am aiming for the world record number of Test wickets," he said. "There's no point just saying 'I'll try to get 350' and ending up with 320. I have 270 and at 29 I still have three or

Confident in his own ability, he is trying to instill the same quality in a

As ever, they have the knack of finding players in unsuspected places. The latest is Mohammed Akram, 21, a fast bowler from Rawalpindi, who replaced the injured Waqar Younis against Sri Lanka. During a spell with Gloucestershire's second team he was coached by Courtney Walsh, whose high arm action he has moulded on to a delivery that owes something to Michael Holding. There is also talk

At the moment he is speaking in the present tense, determined to soften the hard public edges of Pakistan cricket. "We play very aggressively but we must be aggressive in the right way. I think this series will be friendly. The teams have known each other for some time and everybody got on well last year. We will not do anything daft on the field and may the best team win."

It was an uncomfortable yet valuable experience for some of his teammates. Illingworth, watching from

Words of praise for Malcolm have been uttered infrequently on this tour. Illingworth and Peter Lever, the bowling coach, announced last week that they had abandoned their experiment to change the Derbyshire bowler's action, indicating he was either unable or unwilling to co-operate.

The good news for Malcolm — and for Robin Smith, for that matter — is that the Kimberley Sports Ground pitch prepared by Fred Swarbrook, the former Derbyshire left-arm spin-

Like Malcolm, Smith must show he deserves Test selection. "We are trying to give him every chance."

ENGLAND XI (from): M A Atherton (captain), A J Stewart, M R Ramprakash, G P Thorpe, G A Hick, R C Smith, R C Russell, M Wattinson, D Gough, A C Fraser, D E Malcolm, M C Elliott.

SOUTH AFRICA A: J B Connine (Western Province, captain), G F J Leubenberg (Free State), P J R Smith (Natal), L J Wilkinson (Free State), J H Kallis (Western Province), Klaerner (Natal), S J Pollard (Border), N Boge (Free State), S D Jack (Transvaal), R Tenaersma (Free State), P Adams (Western Province).

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ENGLAND A: First innings	
*N Knight c Harrod b Shaheed	36
A McKeown b Shaheed	10
*N Hussain low b Shaheed	89
P Ooster b Shaheed	0
C Pooley b Asher	19
C Innes low b Shaheed	22
*R Flower c Shaheed b Shaheed	6
D Salisbury	0
D Dicks c Shaheed Arshad b Nadeem	50
M Smith c and b Taufiq	0
S H Gaden not out	5
Extras (b 10, lb 7, w 4, nb 7)	28
Total	312
*ALL OF WICKETS 1-67, 2-103, 3-103, 4-158, 6-191, 7-227, 8-272, 9-276	
*BOWLING After 31-10-66-1: Taufiq 15-4-2-1, Shaheed 30-8-7-4, Khum 41-12-12-9-5, Shaheed 8-0-1-9	

Umpires: Saleem Badar and Isam Khum

Mike Smith, the Gloucestershire left-arm seamer bowler, who bowled just three overs early in the innings, continued to struggle with a side strain he sustained on the first day. He did not bowl at all later in the innings, but was able to field from lunch through to the close.

Answers from page 44

TENENENT
(c) A lieutenant, from Italian and Latin.

WICKMANITE
(c) A cubic hydride of manganese, usually yellowish or colorless crystals. Wickman, born 1915, the Swedish chemist.

Mu₂Si(OH)₂, schoenfliesite. Schoenfliesite occur in separate hydrothermally mineralized skarns.

SEABEES
(b) Members of the Construction Battalion Center, a branch of the Civil Engineer Corps, U.S. Navy. The acronym of the initial letters of Construction Battalion.

SOLDON
(c) Cottoy, usually in the U.S. with a -y. A legislator, usually a Congressman, usually alleged founders of democratic societies. A fair to Solder, even though he is not a soldier.

ATTACHING

and tin. $\text{MnSO}_4(\text{OH})$, found as a mineral in the USSR, is a mineralogist's mineralogist. $\text{MnSO}_4(\text{OH})$, and manganese low-temperature parageneses in at Piskarsk, Karelia.

Battalions formed as a volunteer type of the US Navy. A localised instruction (Battalion) + s.

small interval, in weakened sense, a *spoon* from a spoon, one of the many in ancient Athens. The spoon was not exactly a democratic

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Purcell's London. BBC World Service, 9.30pm.
Robert King squeezes this account of Purcell's music and city into 30 minutes of air time. What we hear tonight is just the first instalment of five. It is an appetiser and, as such, is skilfully done. Starting with Purcell's teenage years as chorister in the Chapel Royal, Whitehall; it ends with his funeral in Westminster Abbey — the same abbey in which he was organist for five years. The musical extracts are from *Radio 3's Fairies* late has been reminding us for many months — of Purcell's astounding versatility.

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by Purcell
1.00-1.30 Night School. GNVO
04
with Daire Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope.
Paul Gambaccini reviews

45 Treasure Islands. Series about children's books, presented by Michael Rosen
00 News; The Afternoon Shift.

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.9, 104.9, 106.6, 107.9, 108.9, 109.9, 110.9, 111.9, 112.9, 113.9, 114.9, 115.9, 116.9, 117.9, 118.9, 119.9, 120.9, 121.9, 122.9, 123.9, 124.9, 125.9, 126.9, 127.9, 128.9, 129.9, 130.9, 131.9, 132.9, 133.9, 134.9, 135.9, 136.9, 137.9, 138.9, 139.9, 140.9, 141.9, 142.9, 143.9, 144.9, 145.9, 146.9, 147.9, 148.9, 149.9, 150.9, 151.9, 152.9, 153.9, 154.9, 155.9, 156.9, 157.9, 158.9, 159.9, 160.9, 161.9, 162.9, 163.9, 164.9, 165.9, 166.9, 167.9, 168.9, 169.9, 170.9, 171.9, 172.9, 173.9, 174.9, 175.9, 176.9, 177.9, 178.9, 179.9, 180.9, 181.9, 182.9, 183.9, 184.9, 185.9, 186.9, 187.9, 188.9, 189.9, 190.9, 191.9, 192.9, 193.9, 194.9, 195.9, 196.9, 197.9, 198.9, 199.9, 200.9, 201.9, 202.9, 203.9, 204.9, 205.9, 206.9, 207.9, 208.9, 209.9, 210.9, 211.9, 212.9, 213.9, 214.9, 215.9, 216.9, 217.9, 218.9, 219.9, 220.9, 221.9, 222.9, 223.9, 224.9, 225.9, 226.9, 227.9, 228.9, 229.9, 230.9, 231.9, 232.9, 233.9, 234.9, 235.9, 236.9, 237.9, 238.9, 239.9, 240.9, 241.9, 242.9, 243.9, 244.9, 245.9, 246.9, 247.9, 248.9, 249.9, 250.9, 251.9, 252.9, 253.9, 254.9, 255.9, 256.9, 257.9, 258.9, 259.9, 260.9, 261.9, 262.9, 263.9, 264.9, 265.9, 266.9, 267.9, 268.9, 269.9, 270.9, 271.9, 272.9, 273.9, 274.9, 275.9, 276.9, 277.9, 278.9, 279.9, 280.9, 281.9, 282.9, 283.9, 284.9, 285.9, 286.9, 287.9, 288.9, 289.9, 290.9, 291.9, 292.9, 293.9, 294.9, 295.9, 296.9, 297.9, 298.9, 299.9, 300.9, 301.9, 302.9, 303.9, 304.9, 305.9, 306.9, 307.9, 308.9, 309.9, 310.9, 311.9, 312.9, 313.9, 314.9, 315.9, 316.9, 317.9, 318.9, 319.9, 320.9, 321.9, 322.9, 323.9, 324.9, 325.9, 326.9, 327.9, 328.9, 329.9, 330.9, 331.9, 332.9, 333.9, 334.9, 335.9, 336.9, 337.9, 338.9, 339.9, 340.9, 341.9, 342.9, 343.9, 344.9, 345.9, 346.9, 347.9, 348.9, 349.9, 350.9, 351.9, 352.9, 353.9, 354.9, 355.9, 356.9, 357.9, 358.9, 359.9, 360.9, 361.9, 362.9, 363.9, 364.9, 365.9, 366.9, 367.9, 368.9, 369.9, 370.9, 371.9, 372.9, 373.9, 374.9, 375.9, 376.9, 377.9, 378.9, 379.9, 380.9, 381.9, 382.9, 383.9, 384.9, 385.9, 386.9, 387.9, 388.9, 389.9, 390.9, 391.9, 392.9, 393.9, 394.9, 395.9, 396.9, 397.9, 398.9, 399.9, 400.9, 401.9, 402.9, 403.9, 404.9, 405.9, 406.9, 407.9, 408.9, 409.9, 410.9, 411.9, 412.9, 413.9, 414.9, 415.9, 416.9, 417.9, 418.9, 419.9, 420.9, 421.9, 422.9, 423.9, 424.9, 425.9, 426.9, 427.9, 428.9, 429.9, 430.9, 431.9, 432.9, 433.9, 434.9, 435.9, 436.9, 437.9, 438.9, 439.9, 440.9, 441.9, 442.9, 443.9, 444.9, 445.9, 446.9, 447.9, 448.9, 449.9, 450.9, 451.9, 452.9, 453.9, 454.9, 455.9, 456.9, 457.9, 458.9, 459.9, 460.9, 461.9, 462.9, 463.9, 464.9, 465.9, 466.9, 467.9, 468.9, 469.9, 470.9, 471.9, 472.9, 473.9, 474.9, 475.9, 476.9, 477.9, 478.9, 479.9, 480.9, 481.9, 482.9, 483.9, 484.9, 485.9, 486.9, 487.9, 488.9, 489.9, 490.9, 491.9, 492.9, 493.9, 494.9, 495.9, 496.9, 497.9, 498.9, 499.9, 500.9, 501.9, 502.9, 503.9, 504.9, 505.9, 506.9, 507.9, 508.9, 509.9, 510.9, 511.9, 512.9, 513.9, 514.9, 515.9, 516.9, 517.9, 518.9, 519.9, 520.9, 521.9, 522.9, 523.9, 524.9, 525.9, 526.9, 527.9, 528.9, 529.9, 530.9, 531.9, 532.9, 533.9, 534.9, 535.9, 536.9, 537.9, 538.9, 539.9, 540.9, 541.9, 542.9, 543.9, 544.9, 545.9, 546.9, 547.9, 548.9, 549.9, 550.9, 551.9, 552.9, 553.9, 554.9, 555.9, 556.9, 557.9, 558.9, 559.9, 560.9, 561.9, 562.9, 563.9, 564.9, 565.9, 566.9, 567.9, 568.9, 569.9, 570.9, 571.9, 572.9, 573.9, 574.9, 575.9, 576.9, 577.9, 578.9, 579.9, 580.9, 581.9, 582.9, 583.9, 584.9, 585.9, 586.9, 587.9, 588.9, 589.9, 590.9, 591.9, 592.9, 593.9, 594.9, 595.9, 596.9, 597.9, 598.9, 599.9, 600.9, 601.9, 602.9, 603.9, 604.9, 605.9, 606.9, 607.9, 608.9, 609.9, 610.9, 611.9, 612.9, 613.9, 614.9, 615.9, 616.9, 617.9, 618.9, 619.9, 620.9, 621.9, 622.9, 623.9, 624.9, 625.9, 626.9, 627.9, 628.9, 629.9, 630.9, 631.9, 632.9, 633.9, 634.9, 635.9, 636.9, 637.9, 638.9, 639.9, 640.9, 641.9, 642.9, 643.9, 644.9, 645.9, 646.9, 647.9, 648.9, 649.9, 650.9, 651.9, 652.9, 653.9, 654.9, 655.9, 656.9, 657.9, 658.9, 659.9, 660.9, 661.9, 662.9, 663.9, 664.9, 665.9, 666.9, 667.9, 668.9, 669.9, 670.9, 671.9, 672.9, 673.9, 674.9, 675.9, 676.9, 677.9, 678.9, 679.9, 680.9, 681.

97.8-89.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-4. FM 92.4-94.8; LW 198; MW WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW M 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM UK. MW 1053, 1088. Television Peter Dinklage, Gillian Anderson, Mandy Patinkin, and others. **2.48** Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service (LW only)

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CLIP: First round: Unbridge v Islands (Gossnead, 1.20)

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RACING 45

BRITISH CHALLENGE
FADES AWAY IN
MELBOURNE CUP

SPORT

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8 1995

CRICKET 46

MALCOLM PICKS UP
PACE IN PUSH
FOR TEST PLACE

Venables keeps Ince on ice and his options open for 1996

Sinclair sights England chance

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE call-up of Trevor Sinclair, the dynamic and roving Queens Park Rangers forward, to the England squad yesterday demonstrates that, with eight months to go, Terry Venables still has an open mind, still a restless eye for the talent that will help him to win the European championship.

The squad to play Switzerland at Wembley on November 15, omits Paul Ince and John Barnes. It lacks Nick Barmby and Darren Anderton through injury, and it benefits from the recall of David Platt, Paul Gascoigne, Tim Flowers, Graeme Le Saux and Peter Beardsley.

However, it was the "surprise" inclusion of Sinclair that will send a message of hope to others, especially the young, still maturing footballers. The message is, keep performing week-in, week-out and, despite the desires of the coach, Venables, to build a reliable and trusted rapport, the full complement of 1996 candidates is still far from settled.

Sinclair, 22, is quick, brave, composed and, incidentally, a young man so proven at under-18 and under-21 levels, that there is, after all, a graduation process forming. He was recommended, not surprisingly, by Dave Sexton, the England Under-21 coach. He had played 13 times at under-21 level. A further reference was provided by Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager and England assistant, who said that Sinclair has been "the best visiting player" in the new Riverside stadium this season.

"His background is very good," said Venables. "He went to Lilleshall [the FA school of excellence], he came up through the under-18 and under-21s, and he did very well in that environment."

There are, nevertheless, conundrums in the elevation of Sinclair. A few months ago, Les Ferdinand felt he had to leave Loftus Road to make consistent progress towards full England recognition. When Ferdinand was with Rangers, Sinclair was a winger, serving the big man from the right or the left, proving

through pace, tenacity and an ability to get to the line, that he had the pedigree of a supplier. Then Ferdinand departed to score 17 goals in 15 league and cup matches for Newcastle United, still not enough, apparently, to force him into the England 11.

In his absence, Rangers brought Sinclair in from the wings, allowing him to follow his instincts, as he used to do with Blackpool. When the scouts came nosing around, the Rangers player-manager, Ray Wilkins, sent them packing by placing a whimsical £10million price on him.

Yesterday, while admitting he had wondered if newspaper speculation that he was to be in the squad could be true, Sinclair reiterated his intention to continue playing under

strated a relish for the position Barmby and Beardsley have occupied under Venables, the alert second forward playing off the main striker.

At Liverpool, they rightly believe Steve McManaman is in the form of his young life, also operating on a free rein rather than being pinned to the left flank where England have marooned him. McManaman and Redknapp are favourites of Venables, too, but it is disconcerting that John Barnes, who organises the Liverpool midfield so splendidly for them, is not in the squad.

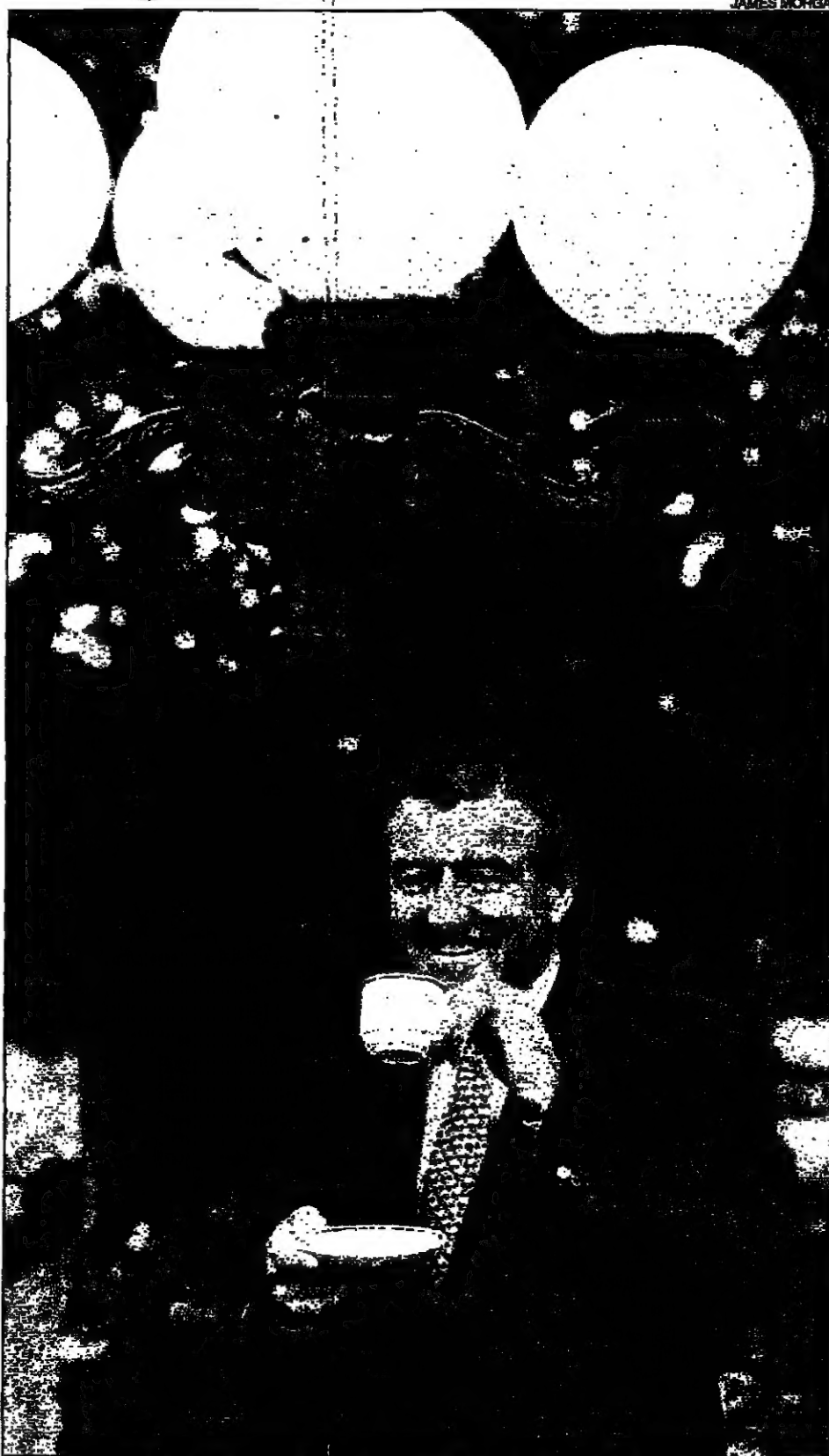
Barnes, 32 yesterday, has been redeployed in the playmaker role at Liverpool. He makes it so simple, so trustworthy, so imaginative. And, though clearly Venables favours Gascoigne's creative ability, his mood swings and fluctuations at Rangers are still alarming. Last week, against Juventus, he was virtually anonymous.

While Steve Stone, tenacity personified, deserves to stay in the squad, one cannot make the same observation of Dennis Wise. Others go to extraordinary lengths to advocate Paul Ince for his combative midfield qualities.

Venables visited him in Italy last Sunday. He did not see enough to convince him to recall Ince, and given that the player was subdued for his last three months with Manchester United, let alone struggling to bridge the gap of quality and culture in Italy, Venables cannot be faulted for offering Ince advice on first getting his attitude right for the challenge there.

Ince had barely 24 hours to ruminate on the words of the England coach. Yesterday's *Gazzetta dello Sport* reported Massimo Moratti, the Internazionale president, as saying: "If it were up to me, I'd keep him. But we absolutely need a forward." It appears Ince may be returning to England, possibly to Arsenal, but not yet to the national squad.

Maradona praised, page 43
Rusden's gem, page 43



Venables in relaxed mood as he announces his squad in London yesterday

Unfashionable Saracens set new trend for rugby's elite

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SARACENS, the self-confessed poor relations of first division rugby in England, yesterday became the first such club to announce an association with a single major investor. Within 12 hours the North London club not only became a limited company but welcomed the injection of £2.5 million from a City entrepreneur, Nigel Wray.

Wray, who played for Old Millhills against Saracens during the 1970s, is the executive chairman of Burford Holdings, a commercial property group. Even before Newcastle United's Sir John Hall and second-division Newcastle Gosforth came together in September, he was contemplating an alliance with Saracens which effectively secures the club's future.

It is a move which Saracens, of all the senior clubs, appreciate in recent seasons they have lost emerging internationals such as Jason Leonard (to Harlequins), Dean Ryan (to Wasps) and Ben Clarke (to Bath), largely because of their unfashionable status. "For too long Saracens have been regarded as a feeder club for other, high-profile clubs," Wray, 47, said.

"I believe they have the potential to become London's premier club, capable of attracting the best players in Europe." To that end Wray will subscribe to £2 million-worth of shares in Saracens plc, joining the board as a non-executive director, and will underwrite a £500,000 share issue available, by next month, to existing members. The board will also seek to appoint a chief executive, at a salary unlikely to be less than £40,000.

Wray, far from regarding himself as a philanthropist, believes this to be a good business deal. "I am not very happy losing money," he said. "There is no bottomless pit for Saracens, we have to get out and improve ourselves. I have always liked the way they play the game but we have to invest in everything: the players, the ground, the spectators. You can't leave any one piece of the jigsaw behind."

The investment virtually guarantees that the promising England A back-row players, Tony Diprose and Richard

Hill — both the subject of offers from elsewhere — will stay at Southgate where, in a new spirit of accord with Enfield Borough Council, Saracens have outline planning permission for ground development. "We need to develop cash flow through the gate," Wray said. "But for many years the money will have to go back into the club. The dividend will be the creation of something very worthwhile for the whole community."

Saracens have sought an alternative ground to Bramley Road for many years but, since they are now regarded as one of the borough's two primary sporting assets, along with the local football club, they may yet stay in their public park accommodation, if they do they will hope in



Wray: entrepreneur

move slightly north and create other leisure amenities.

"Saracens' declared ambition is to be one of the best clubs in England," James Wyness, the president, said. "What has always been missing is resources. We have done wonders with what we have, now we have something more to take us forward."

Meanwhile, Moseley, from the second division, have had talks with Birmingham City football club about a possible alliance and Bath await the response of members to a questionnaire inviting support for investment in the club by a corporate body or a wealthy individual. In this respect, at least, Saracens are top of the table.

The way forward, page 44

Bates presses on without Harding

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

KEN BATES, the Chelsea chairman, believes he will have to press ahead with the club's blueprint for the future without the backing of the director, Matthew Harding.

Harding has maintained his seat on the board even though he has resigned as a director of Chelsea Village, the company which owns the west London club.

His resignation was accepted by Bates, who then released letters between the parties regarding the club's future. Bates is unhappy about Harding's apparent lack of enthusiasm for his plans.

Asked if he was optimistic about getting a response to his plans, Bates replied: "But it like this, it has taken a year not to get one. All we have is bluff on the cappuccino."

Bates first sent a letter to Harding on October 19 outlining his plans. Harding responded on November 2, asking to be allowed to stand down from the board.

That prompted Bates to reply on November 4, when he told Harding: "These are serious matters to be addressed and cannot be avoided, skimmed over or swept under the carpet."

"The alternative is to accept that Chelsea will never be one of the great clubs in the foreseeable future."

"Your letter, charming though it is, totally avoids any of the specific issues to be addressed if our totally worthy aims are to be achieved."

"You are a successful businessman. I have lagged up my thoughts and strategy to you often enough. Surely after

nearly a year the board is entitled to a detailed, measured response."

Bates detailed his long-term plans in his initial letter, claiming that the situation "necessitates addressing the following points:

- 1) How we continue to fund the manager's further requirements, although it is reasonable to assume this will be partly met by existing player sales.
- 2) How we finance the completion of the envisaged 40-45,000 capacity stadium at a cost of £27-£30 million.
- 3) How we progress and fund the rest of the Chelsea Village development.
- 4) How we plan the boardroom succession, securing the continuation of key personnel.

Glenn Hoddle (the manager) is not the only important employee."

Harding wrote in a resignation letter: "I am presently unconvinced it is possible for me to represent equitably the individual objectives of Chelsea Village and its subsidiary company, Chelsea FC."

"Contrary to certain mischievous speculation, I have enjoyed our relationship these past two years and continue to count you as a friend."

□ The Football Association has warned that it will not become involved in an auction with the Premier League over television rights for the Football League. The FA chief executive, Graham Kelly, has written to all 72 Endersleigh Insurance League chairmen ahead of a meeting in London on Friday, outlining the principles of the five-year, £18.5 million joint Sky Television, BBC and ITV contract proposed by the FA.

Culprits keeping up with the Jones

Russell Kempson looks at the Wimbledon player's rivals in football's Hall of Shame

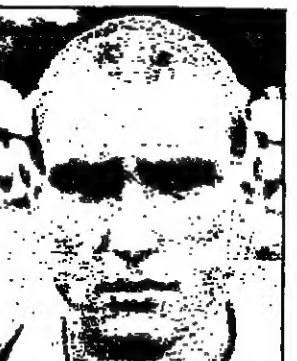
Jones, Dicks, Hurlock, Johnston, Dennis, Walsh, McDonough... a Who's Who of football rogues past and present, players who have inadvertently kept the Football Association's disciplinary department in gainful employment.

Where would the sport be without its *enfants terribles*? A much better place, most would agree. "Vinnie's career at Wimbledon must be seriously threatened," Mark Lawrenson, the former Liverpool defender, said yesterday in the runbling aftermath of Jones's latest misdemeanour. He was sent off after being cautioned twice in Wimbledon's 4-1 defeat away to Nottingham Forest on Monday, for verbally assaulting Paul Alcock, the referee, and a subsequent foul on Bryan Roy, the Dutch striker.

Lawrenson, elegance personified in his playing prime, is possibly right. Jones, a former hood-carrier, has perhaps laboured his aggressive point once too often. It was the tenth sending-off in his ten-

year career — the eleventh if the dismissal, later annulled, against Liverpool two months ago is included. One was incurred for bullying Dave Woodhouse, an Isle of Wight postman, in a pre-season match against Shanklin in 1988.

Statistical anomalies have long given up counting



Jones: irrational

Jones's bookings. As legend has it, he passed 50 last season. Yet warnings, fines and suspensions have had little effect on the tattooed warrior whose leadership qualities can prove inspirational but whose indiscretions are so often irrational.

However, in football's Hall of Shame, Jones is not the worst offender. Willie Johnston, the former Rangers and Scotland winger, was sent off 15 times; Roy McDonough, 37, recently dismissed by Dagenham and Redbridge because of his disciplinary record, has made the lonely walk 13 times; Mark Dennis, the former Birmingham City defender, was dismissed 12 times and received 64 cautions.

Terry Hurlock, now of Fulham, was fined £350 and suspended for six weeks for reaching 51 disciplinary points last season; Steve Walsh, of Leicester City, has

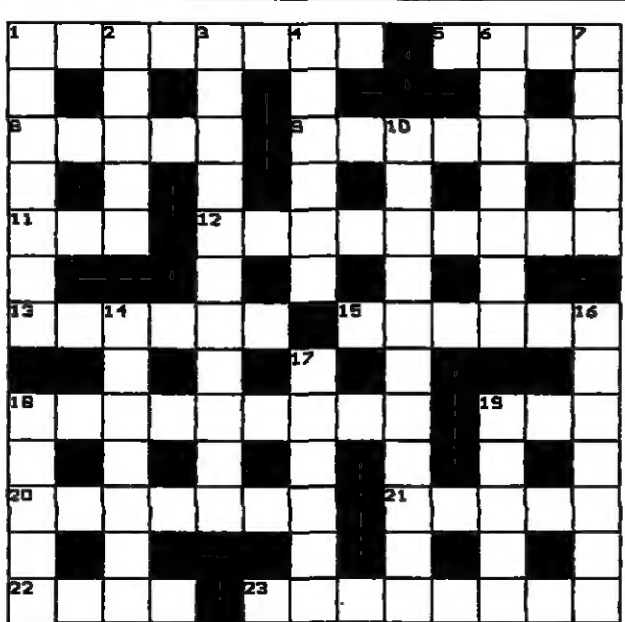
amassed 11 sendings-off in 14 years; and, of course, there is Julian Dicks, the shaven-headed West Ham United full back who is about to begin a three-match ban after being found guilty of stamping on John Spencer, the Chelsea striker. Time to contemplate, perhaps, on his motley collection of nine dismissals and 55 bookings in 11 seasons, and the apparent injustice of it all.

Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon managing director, announced yesterday that the club may appeal against Jones's latest dismissal. He also reiterated his claims of Wimbledon's "victimisation" at the hands of match officials, and called for an FA investigation into the matter.

Though bordering on paranoia, Hammam's emotions are genuine and born of a long-held "them against us" mentality. Jones represents him and his beliefs on the pitch and, thus, should be defended in his frequent hours of need. Is it not time, though, for reality to replace loyalty?

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 621



ACROSS

- 1 Loss of honour, reputation (8)
- 5 Assistance (4)
- 6 Poisonous (5)
- 9 Command: part of bridge game (7)
- 11 Follower of Attila (3)
- 12 Held in particular affection (9)
- 13 Slip accompanying consignment (6)
- 15 Aphoristic (6)
- 16 With connected toes (3-6)
- 19 Achieved (3)
- 20 Statue brought to life for Prometheus (7)
- 21 Jog (5)

DOWN

- 2 Risk: a challenge (4)
- 3 Old joke: a horse (8)
- 4 Dumped (7)
- 7 Old German, English tribesman (5)
- 8 Make waves (4,3,4)
- 10 Spun thread: MND fairy (6)
- 11 Brief witicism (5)
- 12 Called, eg to answer phone (5)
- 13 Rules for behaviour (3,3,5)
- 14 Shoemaker: a drink (7)
- 16 Adapt to new use (7)
- 17 Fix on (6)
- 18 Carried on: in employment (5)
- 19 Increase size across (5)

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 620

ACROSS: 6 Precipitated 7 Gazump 8 Calais 9 Keen 10 Distress 12 Screw top 16 Moll 18 Prolix 20 Siney 21 Bunsen burner DOWN: 1 Sequence 2 Tipped 3 Circus 4 Ball 5 Series 6 Prate 11 Ruminant 13 Curl up 14 Tiding 15 Possess 17 Lower 19 Lash

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 616

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND
ACROSS: 1 Bonsai 4 Banzi 8 Bump 9 Pethora 10 Insulting 13 Reach 15 Anima 16 Weeds 18 Egg-shaped 21 Dialogue 22 Slog 23 Mikado 24 Kinnor DOWN: 1 Bobbin 2 Namesake 3 Input 5 Autograph 6 Zoom 7 Isaiah 11 Lashhold 12 Icing 14 Acapulco 16 Wisdom 17 Adagio 19 Sloop 20 Bark

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The way forward, page 44

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